

Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Nehemiah

Last week we learned that after the people of Israel had been prisoners for 70 years God freed the Israelites. Then God used Cyrus, King of Persia, to build His temple. Ezra taught the people about God's Word. He prayed and asked God's forgiveness for their sins.

Nehemiah 1-2

Read the Bible

READ: Nehemiah 2:1-20 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse:

Don't worry about anything.
Instead, tell God
about everything.
Ask and pray.
Give thanks to him.
(Philippians 4:6 NIV)

Begin with Prayer

Nehemiah (knee-a-my-a) was a man that helped the king. He tasted the king's drink to make sure no one poisoned it. He was called a cupbearer. (Nehemiah 1:11) He was a very trusted man.

One day Nehemiah's brother told him some sad news. He discovered that the walls of his hometown (Jerusalem) were broken and had not been repaired. This troubled Nehemiah. He cried and prayed for several days. He had such a love for his beautiful city; he couldn't bear to think of it in ruins. (Nehemiah 1:1-4)

Goals

1. Understand that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins.
2. Recognize that Nehemiah prayed to God for help.
3. Learn that the king helped Nehemiah.
4. Understand that God provided what Nehemiah needed.

Nehemiah prayed to God. He asked God to forgive the people of their sins. He asked God to give him favor with the king. (Nehemiah 1:5-11) The Bible says, "Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Give thanks to him." (Philippians 4:6 NIV) God heard Nehemiah's prayer. God wants us to ask Him for help, too.

The next day, Nehemiah served the king his drink. The king immediately noticed that Nehemiah was upset. He asked him what was wrong. (Nehemiah 2:1-3) Nehemiah quickly prayed and then told the king and queen of his sadness. Then he boldly asked the king if he could go rebuild the city wall. After some talk, they agreed. God answered Nehemiah's prayer and provided all that he needed. (Nehemiah 2:4-9)

Nehemiah set out quickly. But he was very careful about the things he did. In fact, when he got to Jerusalem, he kept his plans a secret. First, he went at night to look at the broken down wall. He rode a horse around the city and inspected it. (Nehemiah 2:11-16)

Nehemiah — Bible Facts

1. Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer.
2. Nehemiah asked the king for help to rebuild the walls.
3. The people wanted to start rebuilding immediately.
4. The people faced opposition.

Then, he told the people. He shared how God had answered his prayers and how the king let him come to help. Everyone was excited. They wanted to start rebuilding the wall right away. (Nehemiah 2:17-18)

However, some people didn't like this plan. They asked lots of questions. What was Nehemiah's answer? "We are God's servants. We will start rebuilding." He knew that GOD was helping them rebuild the wall. He wasn't going to let anyone discourage them or stop the building. (Nehemiah 2:19-20)

Nehemiah trusted God. He knew that God had answered his prayers. Nehemiah listened to God and did what He said. We must also listen to God and obey Him.

Review

1. **Who was Nehemiah?** (The king's cupbearer.)
2. **What did Nehemiah do when he learned the walls needed repair?** (Asked the king for help.)
3. **What did the people say?** (The people wanted to start rebuilding immediately.)
4. **What happened next?** (The people faced opposition.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God sent Jesus to help us get to heaven. Jesus came to save us from sin. He died on the cross, in our place. But He rose from the dead so that we can be saved. (Romans 10:9-10) When we confess our sins, God forgives us. (1 John 1:9) If you would like to know more about being saved, talk to your teacher.

Prayer Time

1. **Take a moment to listen to God.**
2. **Thank God for sending Jesus to help us.**
3. **Ask God to help you do what He says.**
4. **Pray for friends and family members who need to do what God says.**

Application

Nehemiah learned that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins. He prayed to God for help. Then Nehemiah asked the king to help him. God provided what Nehemiah needed. The Bible says, "Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Give thanks to him." (Philippians 4:6 NIV) God heard Nehemiah's prayer and answered. God wants us to ask Him for help, too.

Planning for Next Week

Nehemiah Finished the Wall — Nehemiah 6:1-16

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Nehemiah 2:1-20 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Bring some boxes for the kids to build walls with.

Nehemiah (knee-a-my-a) was a man that helped the king. He tasted the king's drink to make sure no one poisoned it. (Bring a drink in a cup and taste it. Make a noise with your tongue like you are tasting it) Nehemiah was called a cupbearer. The king trusted him very much. The king liked Nehemiah and cared for him.

One day Nehemiah's brother came into town. He told Nehemiah some sad news. Nehemiah discovered that the walls of his hometown (Jerusalem) were broken and had not been repaired. Nehemiah was very sad. He cried and prayed for several days. His city was so beautiful; he couldn't bear to think of it in ruins.

The next day, Nehemiah served the king his drink. The king immediately noticed that Nehemiah was upset. He asked him what was wrong.

Nehemiah quickly prayed and then told the king and queen of his sadness. Then he boldly asked the king if he could go rebuild the city wall. After some talk, they agreed. The Bible says, "Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Give thanks to him." (Philippians 4:6 NIV) God heard Nehemiah's prayer. God wants us to ask Him for help, too.

Nehemiah set out quickly. But he was very careful about the things he did. In fact, when he got to Jerusalem, he kept his plans a secret. (Whisper when you say this.)

First, he went at night to look at the broken down wall. He rode a horse around the city and inspected it. (Pretend like you are riding a horse and looking around.) Then, he talked to the people. He shared how God had answered his prayers and how the king let him come to help. Everyone was excited. They wanted to start rebuilding the wall right away. (Make motions to simulate working and building with bricks.)

Nehemiah listened to God and did what He said. We must also listen to God and obey Him.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to help us.
3. Ask God to help you do what He says.

Memory verse for younger children

Tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Philippians 4:6

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Nehemiah examined the broken walls. Bring a coloring page of a man on a horse. Write the memory verse on the picture.

•**Test your memory** — Have the children pretend to be the following characters: king, queen, and cupbearer. Ask the cupbearer to serve the king and queen. Tell the story.

•**Taste activity** — Take graham crackers and caramel and make a wall for a snack.

•**Think about it** — Nehemiah was sad. He told the king and queen about it. They helped him. Talk about how God helps us.

Talk about how God answers prayer in three ways: yes, wait, and no.

•**Touch activity** — Bring some boxes for the kids to build walls with.

Cut pieces of construction paper into squares and rectangles. Glue them onto another piece of construction paper to form a wall.

•**Run and play** — Nehemiah went to look at the broken walls but did not tell anyone. Have the children walk around in silence pretending to exam broken walls. Then have the children pretend to rebuild the walls.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to trust Him and to obey Him.

•**Sing** — Sing “Obedience,” “Trust and Obey,” or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Take the coloring page with memory verse to them. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

Don't worry
about anything.
Instead, tell God
about everything.
Ask and pray.
Give thanks
to Him.
Philippians 4:6

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Nehemiah

prayed.

God

provided.

Word Search

G B F E L P O E P P R A Y E D F B
T S D S R E R A E B P U C E D S S
C Y G D L L U F E R A C P T S G B
D C F R R L L G N I K L F K T D L
G K B N B K A M E K E R L V R B N
S L F L Z S P W H H M S R R Y C D
B S T F D L F G E V D H D L K G Z
M V D F W B F T M F P C K B R F E
G T N S L P R H I U M W P T S R K
N B D S P B S F A N K N S R P M F
W F S P I R G D H D G N W S V D H
T S B S M E L A S U R E J T V J D

NEHEMIAH
HELPED
CUPBEARER

PRAYED
WALLS
JERUSALEM

KING
PEOPLE
CAREFUL

Word Search

G	B	F	E	L	P	O	E	P	P	R	A	Y	E	D	F	B
T	S	D	S	R	E	R	A	E	B	P	U	C	E	D	S	S
C	Y	G	D	L	L	U	F	E	R	A	C	P	T	S	G	B
D	C	F	R	R	L	L	G	N	I	K	L	F	K	T	D	L
G	K	B	N	B	K	A	M	E	K	E	R	L	V	R	B	N
S	L	F	L	Z	S	P	W	H	H	M	S	R	R	Y	C	D
B	S	T	F	D	L	F	G	E	V	D	H	D	L	K	G	Z
M	V	D	F	W	B	F	T	M	F	P	C	K	B	R	F	E
G	T	N	S	L	P	R	H	I	U	M	W	P	T	S	R	K
N	B	D	S	P	B	S	F	A	N	K	N	S	R	P	M	F
W	F	S	P	I	R	G	D	H	D	G	N	W	S	V	D	H
T	S	B	S	M	E	L	A	S	U	R	E	J	T	V	J	D

NEHEMIAH
 HELPED
 CUPBEARER

PRAYED
 WALLS
 JERUSALEM

KING
 PEOPLE
 CAREFUL

Word Search

K F B G L R W H D F L J
N E H E M I A H K B P M
B F V M T G S B P R D N
J M K V R L P R A Y E D
T P J W B D F I N I S H
J C B R K I N G Y K D M
S B R M K J D R K B N P
H E L P E D T F D V K S
R S H V T R V G S F R B
N B S R G F L W A L L S
S G F M J R T F B G L D
M B N P E O P L E K V D

NEHEMIAH

PRAYED

KING

HELPED

WALLS

PEOPLE

Word Search

K	F	B	G	L	R	W	H	D	F	L	J
N	E	H	E	M	I	A	H	K	B	P	M
B	F	V	M	T	G	S	B	P	R	D	N
J	M	K	V	R	L	P	R	A	Y	E	D
T	P	J	W	B	D	F	I	N	I	S	H
J	C	B	R	K	I	N	G	Y	K	D	M
S	B	R	M	K	J	D	R	K	B	N	P
H	E	L	P	E	D	T	F	D	V	K	S
R	S	H	V	T	R	V	G	S	F	R	B
N	B	S	R	G	F	L	W	A	L	L	S
S	G	F	M	J	R	T	F	B	G	L	D
M	B	N	P	E	O	P	L	E	K	V	D

NEHEMIAH

PRAYED

KING

HELPED

WALLS

PEOPLE

Anagram

RRYOW

NNHGAYIT

LELT

DOG

RNGHEEYIVT

SKA

YARP

NKHSAT

PPPLNSIIAH



Anagram

WORRY

ANYTHING

TELL

GOD

EVERYTHING

ASK

PRAY

THANKS

PHILIPPIANS