

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 Finishes the Wall

In the lesson last week, 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.

Nehemiah 3-6

Read the Bible

READ: Nehemiah 4:1-23 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse:

So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help. **(Hebrews 4:16 CEV)**

Begin with Prayer

Nehemiah had lots of people to help rebuild the wall of the city. But, one person who was not from Jerusalem was named Sanballat. He became furious when he heard what was happening. He made fun of the people. He said to his friends and the army, "What are these weak people doing? They think they can rebuild the wall." Another man said, "Yeah, even a fox could break down the wall they are rebuilding!" (Nehemiah 4:1-2)

Goals

1. Understand that the people had begun rebuilding the walls.
2. Recognize that their enemies were angry.
3. Learn that Nehemiah prayed to God for help.
4. Understand that God protected Israel and helped them finish the wall.

The mean words didn't stop Nehemiah. He PRAYED to GOD! God took care of them. (Nehemiah 4:4-5) The Bible tells us, "So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help." (Hebrews 4:16 CEV)

Later, when the wall was half finished, the enemies started getting nervous. They began to tell the people that they would kill them when they weren't looking. (Nehemiah 4:10-15)

Nehemiah asked half the men to work and the other to stand with spears, shields, bows, and armor. If they carried material in one hand, then they held a weapon in the other. If they were building, they carried a sword. Nehemiah also had someone with a trumpet with him. He reminded the people that they did not need to be afraid because GOD would fight for them. (Nehemiah 4:16-23)

God helped Nehemiah rebuild the wall. He had each person build the wall next to their home in the city. (Nehemiah 3:28) That was a good idea because everyone wanted to do their best job on the part that was

Nehemiah Finishes the Wall — Bible Facts

1. Sanballat became angry when he learned that Nehemiah was rebuilding the wall.
2. Nehemiah prayed and asked God for help when he received threats from Sanballat.
3. The people were afraid.
4. Nehemiah had the people stand with spears, shields, bows, and armor while they did the work of rebuilding.
5. God helped them rebuild the wall in 52 days.

by their home. They would work hard to make it safe and secure from their enemies.

Guess what? A record was set! They finished the wall in 52 days!!! Do you know that even the enemies realized that only God could have done this because it was a great, big wall? (Nehemiah 6:15-16)

When the wall was complete, Nehemiah and Ezra helped the people worship God. They took time to read the Bible and obey God. It was a very special time. (Nehemiah 8:1-6)

Review

1. **Who became angry when he learned that Nehemiah was rebuilding the wall?** (Sanballat)
2. **What did Nehemiah do when he received threats from Sanballat?** (Nehemiah prayed and asked God for help.)
3. **How did the Israelites react?** (The Israelites were afraid.)
4. **What happened next?** (Nehemiah had the people stand with spears, shields, bows, and armor while they did the work of rebuilding.)
5. **What did God do?** (God helped them rebuild the wall in 52 days.)

Do You Know Jesus?

John 3:16 tells us that Jesus loves us—and He showed us. He did this by dying on the cross and coming back to life three days later. He died to pay the price for all our sins. If we believe in Jesus and that He came back to life, He will help us. If we ask Jesus to come into our heart, He will take away all our sin. If you want to know more about it, 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 trust Him when you face your enemies.**
4. **Pray for friends and family members who need to trust God.**

Application

The people of Israel had begun rebuilding the walls. Their enemies were angry that they were rebuilding the walls and threatened them. But Nehemiah prayed to God for help. God protected them and helped them finish the wall. The Bible tells us that, “whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help.” (Hebrews 4:16 CEV) God wants to help us.

Planning for Next Week
Esther — Esther 1:19-2:23

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Nehemiah 4:1-23 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Bring some boxes for the kids to build walls with. Make spears, shields, bows, and armor.

Nehemiah was a man who loved God. Last week we learned how he asked the king if he could go back to his home and rebuild the wall that had been destroyed. God helped him and he began the work. He asked many people to help him rebuild the wall.

The people worked hard building the wall. They hammered, put bricks up and added cement called mortar. Slowly, the wall began to grow taller and taller.

Some of their enemies were becoming afraid. They did not want the wall built. They wanted the city in ruins so that they could raid the town and take things away. They began to laugh at Nehemiah and tried to make him stop building the wall.

Each time the people tried to hurt Nehemiah, Nehemiah would pray and ask God for help. God would help them continue to work and not listen to the mean words that the enemies were saying.

God helped them rebuild the wall in 52 days!! That was amazing. When people heard that the wall was rebuilt, they knew that God had helped them complete it quickly!

When the wall was finished, Nehemiah brought all the people together to worship God. They praised God for helping them finish the wall to their beautiful city. It was a wonderful time for everyone.

Nehemiah loved God and God helped him finish an important job. When mean people were saying hurtful words, Nehemiah did not say mean things back. Instead, he prayed and asked God for help. When someone is mean to us or says hurtful things, we must pray and ask God for help. He will help us love our enemies and do the right thing!

Finish the song (started last week) to the tune of "The wise man built his house upon the rock."

Nehemiah prayed as the wall was being built,
Nehemiah prayed as the wall was being built,
Nehemiah prayed as the wall was being built,
And Jerusalem was made safe.

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 trust Him when you face your enemies.

Memory verse for younger children

[In God] we will find help. Hebrews 4:16

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Bring a coloring picture of a Bible. Have the children write the verse on the Bible.

•**Test your memory** — Israel’s enemies threatened them several times. They tried to distract them. Have the children divide into two groups. Ask one group to pretend to build walls. Have the other group try to distract those building the walls. Then tell the story and have the children retell the story.

•**Taste activity** — Use wafer cookies to build a wall. Use gummy bears to put inside the wall.

Make a wall with graham crackers, icing, and marshmallows. Lay the graham cracker on a plate. Spread icing on the cracker and add marshmallows to create the wall.

•**Think about it** — God protected the Israelites from their enemies. Talk about how God protects us.

God helped the Israelites finish the wall in 52 days. That was a miracle. Talk about how God works miracles today.

•**Touch activity** — Make bows, spears, shields, and swords out of paper bags or use aluminum foil.

Glue craft sticks onto a piece of construction paper to make a wall. Draw the doors with a marker.

•**Run and play** — It took 52 days to rebuild the walls. Bring blocks and let the kids build a wall.

The Israelites worked. Some had bows, spears, shields, and swords. Let the children pretend they are standing guard with bows, spears, shields, and swords.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to remember He is our helper and our protector.

•**Sing** — Sing “Psalm 91 song” (see YouTube), “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 the memory verse to them. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

So whenever
we are in need,
we should come bravely
before the throne
of our merciful God.
There we will be treated
with undeserved
kindness, and
we will find help.
Hebrews 4:16

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Nehemiah

finished

the wall

Word Search

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

JERUSALEM

WALL

SPEARS

ARMOR

SANBALLAT

ISRAEL

SHIELDS

SWORDS

ENEMY

NEHEMIAH

BOWS

PRAYED

Word Search

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

JERUSALEM

WALL

SPEARS

ARMOR

SANBALLAT

ISRAEL

SHIELDS

SWORDS

ENEMY

NEHEMIAH

BOWS

PRAYED

Word Search

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

PRAYED

SWORDS

BOWS

SHIELDS

SPEARS

WALLS

Word Search

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

PRAYED

SWORDS

BOWS

SHIELDS

SPEARS

WALLS

Anagram

NDEE

CMEO

VLAERBY

FREEOB

NTOHER

CFLIMURE

DREEATT

NSREEEDDUV

NNIESSDK

Anagram

NEED

COME

BRAVELY

BEFORE

THRONE

MERCIFUL

TREATED

UNDESERVED

KINDNESS