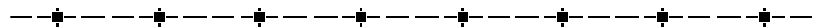


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



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

Old Testament

Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls

Nehemiah

Nehemiah 1-10

Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls
Nehemiah 2:1-20; 4:1-15

Memory Verse:

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
(Romans 12:12 NIV)

Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that Nehemiah went to Jerusalem to see what needed to be done.
2. Understand that Nehemiah asked for help in rebuilding the walls.
3. Learn that Nehemiah prayed when their enemies made fun of them and planned to attack them.
4. Recognize that God helped Israel.

Last week we learned about how Mordecai adopted Esther and taught her about God. She became a queen. When their lives were at risk, she asked the Jews to fast and pray for her. She was willing to go before the king and die for her people.

Read the Bible

READ: Nehemiah 4:1-15 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

Nehemiah served King Artaxerxes. One day when he was giving the king his wine, he was the cupbearer, the king asked Nehemiah why he was sad. Nehemiah told the king it was because he wanted to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. The king allowed Nehemiah to go and gave him letters to give to the governors of the land so that Nehemiah could travel safely. Nehemiah asked for logs so that he could make the gates of the fort that was by the temple and some for the house he would live in. God was with Nehemiah and He helped him, the king agreed and gave Nehemiah the things he requested. (Nehemiah 2:1-8) Nehemiah went to Jerusalem. For three days he looked to see what needed to be done to rebuild the walls and the gates. Then Nehemiah invited the officials, the priests, and the nobles to help him rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. He told them how God had helped him and how the king gave him the things he needed. They agreed to help Nehemiah rebuild the walls. (Nehemiah 2:9-18) But Nehemiah and the Israelites had enemies who laughed at them and made fun of them. They accused them of turning against the king. But Nehemiah said, "The God of heaven will give us success. We serve him. So we'll start rebuilding the walls." (Nehemiah 2:19-20 NIV) The Israelites started rebuilding but their enemies were very upset and very angry. They made fun of the Israelites. (Nehemiah 4:1-3) Nehemiah prayed to God. So the Israelites rebuilt the wall and repaired it until the wall was half as high as they wanted it. "The people worked with all their heart." (Nehemiah 4:4-6) Their enemies were so angry that the Israelites continued to repair the walls that they planned to fight against Israel. (Nehemiah 4:7-8) But the Nehemiah and the Israelites prayed to God. They also put guards on duty day and night, but the workers started getting tired and weak. They became fearful because their enemies were planning to attack them. So Nehemiah placed people behind the lowest part of the wall which was

Nehemiah – Bible Facts

1. Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer.
2. Nehemiah was sad because the walls of Jerusalem had been destroyed.
3. Nehemiah asked the king for permission to go rebuild the walls, for letters so that he could travel, and for wood.
4. The king granted Nehemiah's request.
5. God helped Nehemiah and Israel to rebuild the walls.

the area where they were the weakest. Nehemiah stationed the Israelites family by family. "They had their swords, spears, and bows with them." (Nehemiah 4:9-13 NIV) Nehemiah spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people. He said, "Remember the Lord. He is great and powerful. So fight for your brothers and sisters. Fight for your sons and daughters. Fight for your wives and homes." (Nehemiah 4:14 NIV) God wants us to, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." (Romans 12:12 NIV) The enemies of Israel heard that their plans had not worked because "God had blocked their evil plans." (Nehemiah 4:15 NIV)

The Israelites returned to their work. They rebuilt the walls. Every man did his own work. Half of the men worked and half were given spears, shield, bows and armor. Each builder had a sword at his side. The men who carried the supplies worked with one hand. They had a weapon in the other hand. The man who blew the trumpet stayed with Nehemiah. Blowing the trumpet was a sign that they needed to fight. Nehemiah told the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people that it was a big job, the territory was big and they were separated. He told them that if they heard the trumpet to go to that place. Nehemiah told them, "Our God will fight for us!" (Nehemiah 4:16-20 NIV) They worked from sunrise until the stars came out a night. Every man kept his weapon with him, even to go to get water. (Nehemiah 4:21-23) It took 52 days to finish rebuilding the walls. The enemies of Israel became afraid. They realized that God helped Israel finish the work. (Nehemiah 6:15-16) God will help us, too. (Hebrews 13:6)

Review

1. **Who was Nehemiah?** (Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer.)
2. **Why was Nehemiah sad?** (The walls of Jerusalem had been destroyed.)
3. **What did Nehemiah do?** (Nehemiah asked the king for permission to go rebuild the walls, for letters so that he could travel safely, and for wood to rebuild the walls.)
4. **What did the king do?** (The king granted Nehemiah's request.)
5. **What did God do?** (God helped Nehemiah and Israel rebuild the walls in 52 days.)

Do You Know Jesus? Sin separates us from God. The Bible says we have all sinned. (Romans 3:23). We deserve death. (Romans 6:23). But God loves us even though we sin. (Romans 5:8) God sent Jesus to die for our sins. (John 3:16) When we ask God to forgive us, He will. (1 John 1:9) You can know God personally, if you will ask Him to be a part of your life. (Romans 10:9-10) Would you like to do that today?

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God will help us.
3. Ask God to help you to trust Him to help you.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to turn to God for help.

Application

After Nehemiah got permission and aid from the king, he went to Jerusalem to see what needed to be done. Then he asked for help from the officials, the priests, and the nobles in rebuilding the walls. Nehemiah prayed when their enemies made fun of them and planned to attack them. It took them 52 days to finish rebuilding the walls. The enemies of Israel became afraid. They realized that God helped Israel finish the work. (Nehemiah 6:15-16) God will help us, too. (Hebrews 13:6)

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Nehemiah 4:1-15 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Have the children trace their hands on a piece of construction paper. Write Colossians 3:23 on the bottom: "We are helpers." Decorate the room with them.)

The Israelites started rebuilding but their enemies were very upset and very angry. They made fun of the Israelites. (Nehemiah 4:1-3) Nehemiah prayed to God. So the Israelites rebuilt the wall and repaired it until the wall was half as high as they wanted it. "The people worked with all their heart." (Nehemiah 4:4-6)

Their enemies were so angry that the Israelites continued to repair the walls that they planned to fight against Israel. (Nehemiah 4:7-8) But the Nehemiah and the Israelites prayed to God. They also put guards on duty day and night. But the workers started get tired and weak. They became fearful because their enemies were planning to attack them. So Nehemiah placed people behind the lowest part of the wall which was the area where they were the weakest. Nehemiah stationed the Israelites family by family. "They had their swords, spears, and bows with them. (Nehemiah 4:9-13 NIRV) Nehemiah spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people. He said, "Remember the Lord. He is great and powerful. So fight for your brothers and sisters. Fight for your sons and daughters. Fight for your wives and homes." (Nehemiah 4:14 NIRV) God wants us to, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." (Romans 12:13 NIRV)

The enemies of Israel heard that their plans had not worked because "God had blocked their evil plans." (Nehemiah 4:15 NIRV)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God will help us.
3. Ask God to help you to trust Him to help you.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to turn to God for help.

Did you know? Preschoolers can learn about how God helps us.

Consider this: Bring pictures of firefighters, nurses, doctors, etc. Talk about how these people help others.

Talk about how God helps us and cares for us by providing for our needs: parents to care for us, place to live, food to eat, etc.

Learning Activities

Memory verse activity — Bring a brick. Put the memory verse on a card and attach it to the brick. Bring coloring pages that have a brick on it. Have the children color the picture. Write the memory verse on it. Practice the verse.

Test your memory — Make a Nehemiah folder. You may want to ask someone to help you create these pictures. Have pictures of Nehemiah as the cupbearer; Nehemiah asking for the things he would need; Nehemiah traveling to Jerusalem; Nehemiah talking to the officials, the priests, and the nobles; Nehemiah and the Israelites working at the wall with spears and swords; Nehemiah praying; Nehemiah and the rebuilt wall.

Taste activity — Bring grapes for a snack. Remind the children that Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer.

Think about it — When their enemies made fun of them and planned to attack them, Nehemiah prayed. God took care of them. Talk about the importance of prayer.

Nehemiah asked the king for permission to go rebuild the walls, for letters so that he could travel safely, and for wood to rebuild the wall and the house he would live. That was no small request. Talk about how God asks us to do "big" things which show us that it is God at work.

Talk about how God helps us and cares for us by providing for our needs: parents to care for us, place to live, food to eat, etc.

Touch activity — Make swords and spears using aluminum foil.

Have the children trace their hands on a piece of construction paper. Write Colossians 3:23 on the bottom. ("We are helpers.") Decorate the room with them.

Bring boxes to make a wall.

Paint a wall on newsprint. Have the children pretend they are building while holding a spear in one hand.

- **Run and play** — Have the children pretend they are rebuilding the wall. They must carry wood beams from one end to the other. Let two or three children carry another child who is designated as the wood beam from one end to the other.
- **Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that God wants us to trust Him to help us.
- **Sing** — Sing "My God is So Big," "Trust and Obey," "Jesus Loves Me," or another song related to the story.

Memory Verse

Be joyful
in hope,
patient
in affliction,
faithful
in prayer.
ROMANS 12:12
NIRV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

Nehemiah

prayed

Word Puzzle

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

CUPBEARER

ARTAXERXES

NEHEMIAH

OFFICIALS

PRIESTS

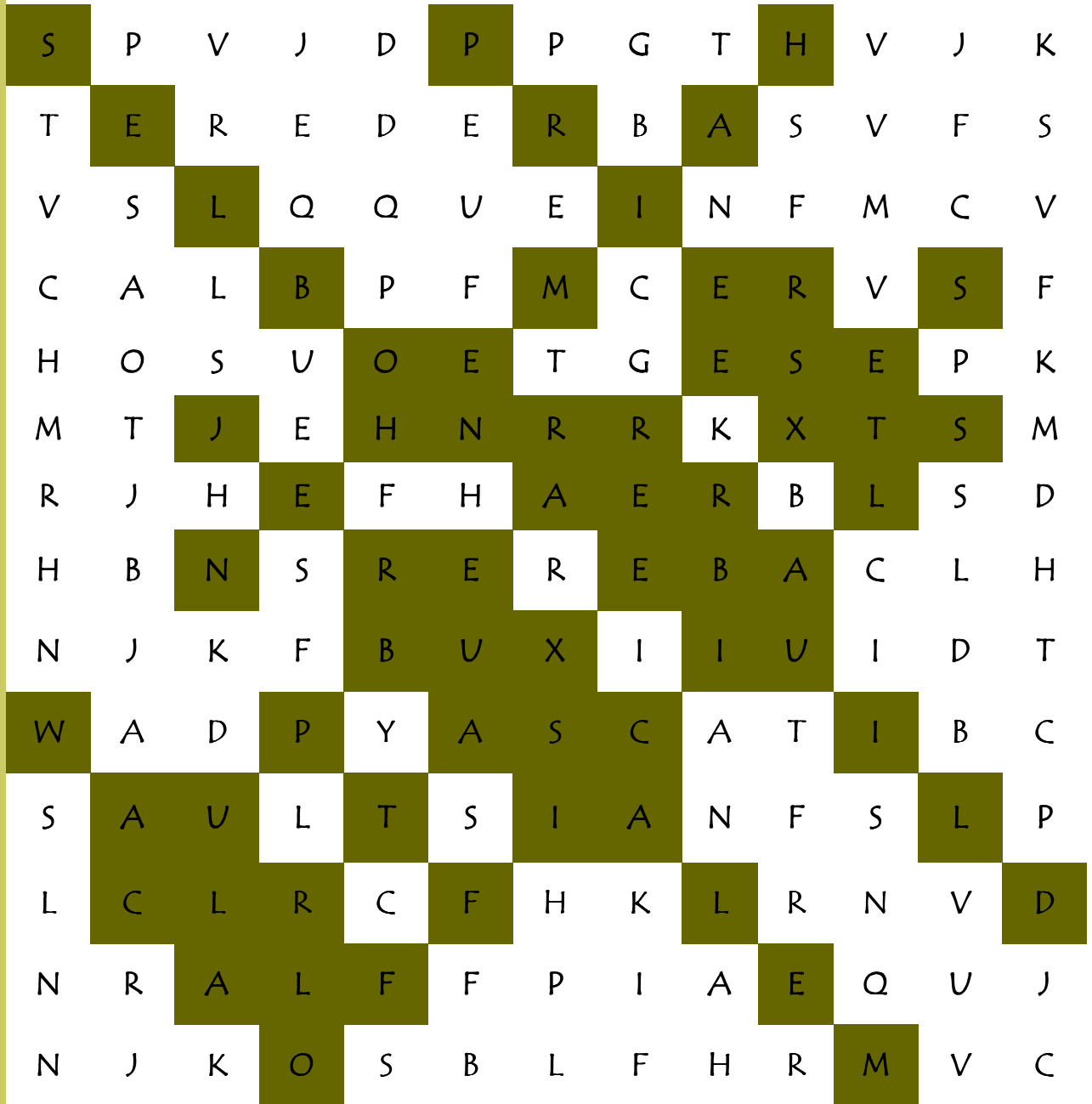
NOBLES

REBUILD

WALL

JERUSALEM

Word Puzzle



CUPBEARER

ARTAXERXES

NEHEMIAH

OFFICIALS

PRIESTS

NOBLES

REBUILD

WALL

JERUSALEM

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

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

NEHEMIAH

REBUILD

WALL

JERUSALEM

KING

HELP

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

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

NEHEMIAH

REBUILD

WALL

JERUSALEM

KING

HELP

Anagram

1. ERADPY–

2. DKAES–

3. OOEDLK –

4. EIIDNVT–

5. EODWKR–

6. DEF RHSTOE–

7. EEAOUGNRC–

8. EIIDFHNS–

Anagram

1. ERADPY– PRAYED
2. DKAES– ASKED
3. OOEDLK – LOOKED
4. EIDNVT– INVITED
5. EODWKR– WORKED
6. DEF RHSTOE– FED OTHERS
7. EEAOUGNRC– ENCOURAGE
8. EIDFHNS– FINISHED