



NEHEMIAH

The Wall Rebuilt

Welcome students.

Prayer Cards: Ask, “How can I pray for you?” Ask students to fill out the cards. Tell the students, “I will pray for you this week.”

Lesson Objective: We can trust God to protect us.

Activity: Fingertip Hoop (supplies: hula hoops - 1 per team)

Form groups of six to eight kids. Give each group a hula hoop. Teams will walk across the room, carrying the hoop parallel to the floor. They may only touch the hoop with one finger, and their palm must face the floor. The first team to reach the opposite wall wins. Play again as time allows.

Connect the Activity to the Lesson

What did it take to move the hoop across the room? What would it take to rebuild a wall around a city? In today’s lesson, we will see what it took to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem.

Introduction:

Have you ever received bad news? Maybe you find out a close friend is moving away or your pet ran off. God’s people lived through some difficult times. We’ve learned in our past lessons how God’s people were taken into captivity and sent as exiles to Babylon. Many returned home after 70 years and began to rebuild their lives. But some were still scattered abroad. Some remained in Persia (modern-day Iran). Nehemiah was one of the people that stayed in Persia and worked for the king. He heard some very disturbing news which made him very sad. Let’s find out what he did about it.

Video Recap: “The Walls Rebuilt” – Nehemiah 1-6

One day, some men came from Judah to visit Persia. Nehemiah asked, “How are God’s people doing in Jerusalem?” The men told him the people were in trouble. The walls around Jerusalem were broken down and the gates had been burned. This news made Nehemiah cry. He prayed and fasted but his countenance was still sad. The king noticed this and asked him what was wrong. Nehemiah responded, “The city where my ancestors are from is in ruins, and the gates of the city have been burned down.” So the king sent Nehemiah to Jerusalem. He inspected the walls and led the people to start rebuilding the walls and gates.

But not everyone was happy that Jerusalem’s walls were being rebuilt. God’s people kept working on the walls, but their enemies made a plan to attack them and stop their work. God’s people prayed and chose men to guard the walls all day and all night, but the people were discouraged. “Our enemies are everywhere,” they cried. Nehemiah reminded the people that God was with them. “Don’t be afraid. God is great and powerful! Be ready. If our enemies attack us, God will fight for us!” He reminded them that their enemies were not in charge of rebuilding the wall; God was! So God’s people went back to work. Some stood guard with weapons, and others worked on the wall. Some men worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other. They were always ready to fight, just in case. Nehemiah was a wise and good leader for God’s people while they worked. In just 52 days, the wall was completed! The gates were repaired and

the wall was restored. When all of Jerusalem's enemies heard this, they were afraid because they knew God was with His people.

Christ Connection: Nehemiah led the people to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem to protect them from their enemies. Jesus came to protect us from our greatest enemy, sin and death. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue everyone who trusts in Him.

Debrief: Questions to ask

What was the first thing Nehemiah did after hearing about Jerusalem? (*Nehemiah had the greatest tool of all – prayer! We can approach every situation with prayer and be confident that God hears us when we pray.*)

What feelings might prompt you to pray? (*Point out that in his prayer, Nehemiah thanked God and praised Him. Nehemiah prayed even though he was sad and confused. God heard Nehemiah's prayers and answered them.*)

Do you think God protects us today? Why or why not?

In the past, have you experiences or seen evidence of God's protection? If so, when?

Apply the Story

God's people had to trust that rebuilding the walls was God's plan for them. They had to trust that God would keep them safe while they obeyed Him. When God asks us to do something, He does not guarantee that it will be easy or that everyone will agree. We can listen to God through His Word and trust that His words are true. How do we show we trust God? When we trust Him, we will obey Him – even when other people try to get us to stop. God is still protecting us today, just like He did His people in Nehemiah's time. He sent Jesus to protect us from our greatest enemy, sin and death. When we put our trust in Jesus, we are delivered from our enemy.

Bible Drills (supplies: Bibles)

Challenge the students to look up the following verses and stand up when they find it. Recognize the first person to stand and ask them to read the verse. After all the verses are read, discuss the theme each verse has in common (Underlined Words below)

God is Our Protector:

Psalms 5:11

1 Corinthians 10:13

Deuteronomy 31:6

Isaiah 41:10

Proverbs 2:11

2 Thessalonians 3:3

Proverbs 4:6

Psalms 12:5