



FEBRUARY 22, 2026

THE WALLS REBUILT

NEHEMIAH 1-6

CHRIST CONNECTION

God's enemies tried to stop His people, but they still rebuilt the wall. God's enemies tried to stop Jesus by killing Him, but God planned for Jesus' death and resurrection to be the only way for people to be saved.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah.

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 25:9

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

In the first chapter of Nehemiah, we learn that Nehemiah's heart was broken when he heard that the walls around the city of Jerusalem were in disrepair. While Nehemiah was in a place of prestige and importance, he was willing to sacrifice that position, travel back to Jerusalem, and dedicate himself to rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah understood that without walls around the city, Jerusalem was in danger of being destroyed or ransacked again by other groups of people living around them.

Once Nehemiah began the work of getting the people together to rebuild the walls, opposition quickly came in the form of a neighboring group of people. The opposition leaders decided that they needed to stop the work by killing Nehemiah if necessary. When confronted with the opposition, Nehemiah refused to give up his place working on the wall. He said to his enemies, "I am doing a great work and cannot come down" (Nehemiah 6:3). The Bible tells us Nehemiah had to refuse their request five times. Despite this opposition and many more in the days ahead, God strengthened His people, and they completed the walls in only 52 days.

Nehemiah reminds us of the importance of staying focused on the task to which God has called us. It is so easy to get distracted in the world in which we live, and yet God has called us to be focused on doing His will. Point kids to see how they can ask God to help them remain focused on His will and His plan for their lives. Invite kids to ponder God's mercy and power, knowing He will help them to accomplish whatever He calls them to.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

MEMORY VERSE

It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Isaiah 25:9, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's Memory Verse folder to review the verse with the kids. A hand motion video is also available to learn and review on your room's TV.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on March 22!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

THE WALLS REBUILT

When God's people were freed from exile, Nehemiah stayed behind in Persia and worked for the king. Nehemiah was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia. One day, Nehemiah heard that the people of God in Jerusalem were in trouble. The wall was broken down, and the gates were burned.

Nehemiah wept over the sad news about Jerusalem. He prayed to God, saying, "God, please hear my prayer for your people. I confess that we have sinned against you. Please forgive us, and give me favor in the eyes of the king as I go to serve him."

King Artaxerxes noticed that Nehemiah looked sad and asked him what was wrong. Nehemiah told him that he was sad because Jerusalem was in ruins. The king said, "What is your request?" Nehemiah prayed, and then said, "If it pleases the king, please send me to Jerusalem so that I may rebuild it." The king agreed to this request and provided wood for the building of the temple.

When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, he spent time observing the walls and gates and planning what he should do. Then he went to all the people and said, "You see the trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins. Come, let's rebuild the wall so we will no longer be shameful."

The people started building, but some enemies of God's people, Sanballat and Tobiah, were not happy. They planned to attack Jerusalem so the building would stop. So, the people prayed to God and appointed a guard to protect them day and night. They also had each builder carry a weapon with him to protect himself. In addition, they all carried ram's horns to blow if they were attacked, so that other workers would come help them.

Then Sanballat and Tobiah started telling lies about the people of God. They said God's people were rebuilding the wall because they planned to rebel against King Artaxerxes. Nehemiah said, "There is no truth to these rumors!" God's people did not allow these enemies to stop them from building.

The people completed the wall in 52 days. The nations were amazed, and they knew that the Lord had helped His people.

CHRIST CONNECTION: God's enemies tried to stop His people, but they still rebuilt the wall. God's enemies tried to stop Jesus by killing Him, but God planned for Jesus' death and resurrection to be the only way for people to be saved.

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

MAIN ACTIVITY

Split kids into four groups. Give each group 20 marshmallows and 10 spaghetti noodles. (*Don't let kids eat the marshmallows! We will have more for them to eat later.*)

Challenge each group to create a wall using their marshmallows and noodles. Once every group is done, have everyone come together and connect their walls of marshmallows and noodles to make a cube, like the walls around a city.

CONNECT THE DOTS



Today we learned how God's people wanted to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem because they were in ruins. Even though their enemies tried to stop them, God's people rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem by working together to complete each section of the wall.



BIBLE SKILLS

Option 1: Play the Bible Emoji game provided on the TV in your room.

Option 2: Choose one of the games in your Bible Skills & Extra Time Resource folder to play.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage
kids before parent
pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. God's people worked together to rebuild the wall. Do Christians need to work together? Why should they?
2. How did Nehemiah trust God when facing the enemies who tried to stop the rebuilding?
3. Before Nehemiah began rebuilding the walls, he went to God in prayer. Why do you think he did this?
4. What is something, big or small, you can pray about before you take action?
5. What are some ways we can be encouraged when we face challenges, like Nehemiah and the people of God did as they built the wall?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!