

# PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



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.**

# LEADER DEVO

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.

# ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until Large Group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

### THIS MONTH'S 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*



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

**MAR 22**

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

### THIS MONTH'S TOOL: VERSE ABBREVIATIONS

On an index card, write out the first letter of each word in the verse you want to memorize. For example, Isaiah 25:9 will look like:

I W B S O T D B T I O G W H W F H T H M S U T I T L W H W F H L U B G A R I H S

# LESSON

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.

# LESSON

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.

# SMALL GROUPS

## OUR GOAL

**To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.**

## DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 1) What was Nehemiah's reaction when he heard about the walls around Jerusalem? Why would this upset him? (Nehemiah 1:4)
- 2) How did Nehemiah and the people respond to their enemies? (See Nehemiah 2:20).
- 3) Can anyone or anything stop God's will from being done? Why not? (Isaiah 14:27; Job 42:2; Genesis 1:3)
- 4) How does it make you feel to know that God's will can't be stopped?
- 5) What was God's will and purpose in sending Jesus? (John 3:16-17)
- 6) Who can you tell this week about God's provision through Jesus for anyone to be saved from their sin?

# PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids.

Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, Large Group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

# CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

# THANK YOU FOR SERVING!