

3rd-5th Grade Lesson Plan

Sunday, September 13

UNIT 18 | SESSION 1

THE WALLS REBUILT

NEHEMIAH 1-6

MAIN POINT / 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.

MEMORY VERSE of the Month: JOHN 20:31 - "but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (ESV)

LESSON CONTEXT: This Unit - After 70 years, the exile was over, and God brought His people home to Judah. Through the prophet Zechariah, God spoke a message of hope to His people about what would happen in the future. The people began to rebuild the temple so that they would have a place to worship God. Years later in Persia, God used Esther to save His people through her bravery and sacrifice.

Fellowship Time | 9:00-9:15 am / 10:45-11:00 am

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Greet families at the door as they arrive. Allow children time to engage with one another and catch up. Use this time to get to know your students and hear about their week. **What was a good part/hard part or "yay duck"/"yuck duck" of their week?** If you'd like a prompting question for discussion, you can use the one below:

SAY: *Have you ever worked on a project that was difficult or took a long time to complete? What was it? Did you ever feel like giving up?*

ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead children to choose a desk and give them **an Activity Page and markers** (in Activity Box). You can also give them blank paper to draw or some playdough (in Teacher Box) if you prefer.

SAY: *Today, we will learn how God's people rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem, even though their enemies tried to stop them.*

REVIEW CLASSROOM RULES

Post the **Rules Poster** (in Activity Box) somewhere in the room.

1. Be kind and respectful
2. Have a heart of obedience
3. Have self control

Group Activity

BUILD A MARSHMALLOW WALL

Form kids into groups. Distribute **marshmallows** and five **lollipop sticks** to each group (in Activity Box). Challenge groups to create a wall using their marshmallows and lollipop sticks. Explain that the kids will place a marshmallow on the table and poke a lollipop stick through it. Then kids will skewer more marshmallows onto the stick until the stick is covered. Tell groups to line up each marshmallow filled stick next to each other to create the "wall." The group to complete their wall first—that stands on its own!—is the winner.

SAY *Was it challenging to build the wall? Today, we will learn how God's people wanted to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem because they were in ruins. We'll see that even though their enemies tried to stop them, God's people rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.*

Lesson

Ask students to return to their desks and pass out **Bibles** (in Teacher Box). Let them know of your expectations during the lesson: listening to the teacher, sitting quietly with hands and feet to themselves, etc.

1. Introduce the Lesson + Pray

SAY *Welcome, kids! I'm so happy you are here to learn from God's Word, the Bible. If you brought your Bible, can you please hold it up? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today, we will be in the book of Nehemiah.*

Through our Bible story, we will learn how God continued to protect and provide for His people. We'll see how God raised up Nehemiah to be a leader for His people as they rebuilt the walls around Jerusalem. Even though their enemies tried to stop them, God's people rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. Let's pray together.

2. Using Bibles

SAY: *Today, we will be in the books of NEHEMIAH. Let's find it in our bibles!*

- *First, find the table of contents in the front of your Bible. Do you think NEHEMIAH is in the Old or the New Testament? [Old Testament]*
- *So, find NEHEMIAH under the Old Testament column and locate its page number.*
- *Turn to that page. We will start in NEHEMIAH chapter 1.*

3. Tell the Bible Story

Open your **Bible** to **NEHEMIAH** and ask children to turn in their Bibles.

THE WALLS WERE 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.

4. Christ Connection

SAY: *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.*

Review & Video

Bible Story Video

If you'd like, watch the **Bible lesson video** on the YouTube app on the TV (*YouTube account should be Fellowship Kids (switch accounts on the top of the left sidebar if not) > go to Library on the left side bar > Choose Playlists on the top > choose your classroom).*

Review the Bible Story

Invite kids to think about what the word **courage** means. Prompt kids to share their ideas by raising their hands. Then write their responses on a dry erase board.

Invite children to **open their Bibles to NEHEMIAH 4:15-20.**

SAY -

- 1. What did the men carry while they worked?**
 - a. *They all carried weapons in one hand or at their side so that if they were attacked while they built the walls, they could fight.*
- 2. Who did Nehemiah say would fight for them in verse 20?**
 - a. *God!*
- 3. What did the nations around them think when they saw how quickly the walls were built? Read Nehemiah 6:16.**
 - a. *They were afraid because they realized that God was with the Israelites and had helped them accomplish the work.*

Pray

Ask students if they have any **prayer requests**. Pray about what you learned in the lesson and for any requests.

Memory Verse

Show the **memory verse poster** (in Activity Box). Open your Bible to **JOHN 20:31** and lead the kids to read the verses together. You can also write the verse on the whiteboard so that children can see it more clearly.

“but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”
- JOHN 20:31

SAY IT DIFFERENT WAYS

Invite the class to say the memory verse in lots of fun ways. Some suggestions: loud, soft, high-pitched, low/deep, eyes closed, slow, fast, holding your nose, singing, holding your tongue, etc. Get creative and come up with your own fun ways to learn the memory verse.

SAY: *Let’s work on memorizing our key passage that reminds us that God is faithful to provide us with the way to have eternal life.*

Lesson Activity

STONE, SWORD, SHIELD

Invite kids to form pairs and play a game of rock, paper, scissors, but replace the names with stone, sword, and shield. Explain that kids will make a fist for “stone” which beats “shield.” Kids will hold out their pointer finger for “sword” which splits or beats a rock. And kids will hold their palm up for “shield” which deflects or beats a “sword.” Guide pairs to play three rounds of stone, sword, shield. Kids who win the best two out of the three rounds remain in the game, while their partner is out. Pair up the remaining kids and continue playing until only one kid remains.

SAY: *The words stone, sword, and shield remind me of our Bible story. Today, we learned how God’s people rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. The people used stone to rebuild the walls, and they held swords to ward off their enemies while they built the walls. Even though their enemies tried*

to stop them, God's people rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem because God acted like a shield, protecting His people.

Dismissal

As parents arrive,

- Match the 4 digit code on the parent's tag to the child's tag
- Check out the child on the tablet by clicking the check box to the left of their name on the roster.
- **Give feedback!** Tell parents how the student did that morning.

Clean Up

- Wipe down tables if any messes were made with activities. [Magic eraser sponges can erase markings on desks.]
- Put teacher and activity items back in the Activity Box or Teacher Box.
- Place the TV remote in the white holder on the dry erase board.
- Return the small Activity Box and your lanyards to the check-in desk.