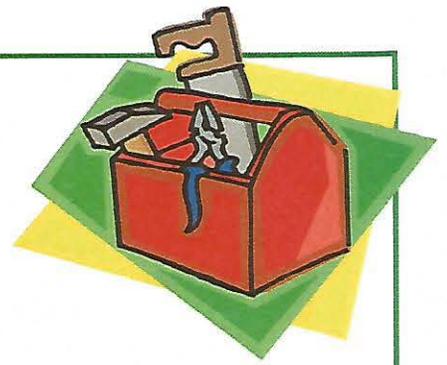


# Nehemiah and the Walls of Jerusalem



**Theme:** Compassion — Loving and helping God's people

## Sunday Morning Lesson

### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Nail Down the Bible Facts

**Memory Verse:** Write the Memory Verse as words or phrases on several sticky notes. Stick each note on a student's shirt. Have students form a line and put themselves in order to arrange the Memory Verse. For older students, place the sticky notes on their backs so they must work together to complete the project. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Talk briefly about the meaning of the verse and how it relates to the quarter's study.

### Prayer

### Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Nehemiah 1:4-6, 10-11; Nehemiah 2:1-5. Have reading students find and mark Nehemiah 1:4 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by asking a student to show Jerusalem location on a map.
5. Introduce Lesson Graphics using the "Build Your Life for God Tool Apron" as described on page 8 of this Guide.
6. Tell the story using the *Building Your Life for God Lesson Graphics* and other props such word cards for "cooperation," "discourage," and "encourage."
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to your age group:
  - Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king—a most important job.
  - Nehemiah asked the king to let him go back to Jerusalem to help his people rebuild the walls; and because God was with the king, he allowed Nehemiah to go.

- Nehemiah planned carefully how to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem so that he and his friends were able to do so, even though enemies led by Sanballat and Tobiah tried to stop them.
- Just as Nehemiah did, we hurt when other believers are hurting.
- God wants us to love and help other believers, just as He loves and helps us.

8. Have desks and chairs all in a jumble, some turned over, out of place, Bibles stacked up against the wall, song books piled up in a corner, various classroom items out of place. Tell students as they come in that they are to leave things as they are — you're very upset and not sure things can be straightened out.

Assign groups or pairs of children different jobs and places to work together to get desks and chairs upright and back in place, Bibles back on desks, song books back in desks, and classroom items back in place. Go around to each group and make fun of them and discourage them about the way they are working. Tell them they'll never be able to do such a big job. As this goes along, someone may realize that this is similar to the way the work on the walls of Jerusalem went. Let them point this out, but continue the activity as planned.

When everything is in place, have children sit down at their desks and find and read together Nehemiah 1:4-6. Find Nehemiah's place on a time line with a pointer. Use a map and lesson graphics to tell the story of Nehemiah's return to Jerusalem and rebuilding the walls. Discuss how their work on the classroom was like Nehemiah's and the Israelites' work on the walls of Jerusalem.

Hold up the word cards and have students tell what part of the story they relate to.

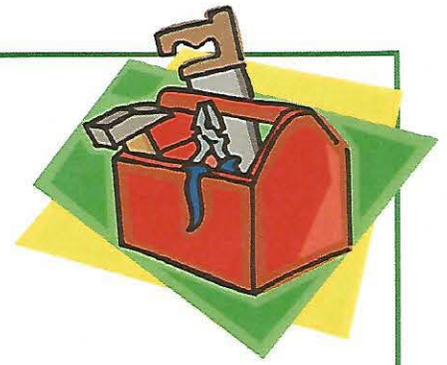
9. Play "Riveting Riddles" with added riddles.

**Things to Get or Do  
for Sunday Morning**

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*Lesson 10*

# Nehemiah and the Walls of Jerusalem



**Theme:** Compassion — Loving and helping God's people

## Wednesday Night Lesson

### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Nail Down the Bible Facts

**Memory Verse:** Using the sticky notes from Sunday, stick them at different places around the classroom. Have students find the sticky notes and arrange them correctly on the marker board to display the verse. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Read the Memory Verse together out loud.

### Prayer

### Starter

Imagine that your room is a mess. Clothes, toys, books and papers are everywhere. You have decided to straighten and clean your room. You make a plan for straightening and cleaning your room over the next three days. You commit yourself to this project. You tell your parents about the plan and ask for their help. Your parents are thrilled with your plan, and they agree to help.

The first day of straightening goes good. You and your mother pick up the clothes that are strewn all around the room. Some pieces of clothing you fold and put in a drawer, some you hang up, and others you put in a laundry basket to be washed. Whew! Completing Phase 1 of the project already made a big improvement.

You begin the second day of work; but after about thirty minutes, one of your friends calls and wants you to go to a movie and then spend the night. You committed yourself to carrying out your plan, and now you have to decide what to do. You tell your friend your plan, but s/he tries to talk you out of it. Will you keep your commitment and follow your plan, or will you be distracted and discouraged?

Almost 100 years after the Jews' first return to their homeland, Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem to help rebuild the city walls. He planned the work and led his people to do it. Some enemies of God's people tried to get Nehemiah to stop working on the walls. Let's see what happened.

## Illustrations and Applications

### 1. *Objective: Review the lesson and emphasize Nehemiah's action steps*

Have students retell the story from their Sunday morning lesson. Correct or supplement as needed. Help students see Nehemiah's action steps as follows:

- Evaluating the situation
- Forming a plan
- Getting people to commit to the work
- Dealing with problems – both outside and inside
- Completing the project

Talk with students about “Plan the Work and Work the Plan.” Help them make application of the action steps to something relevant to their lives. Examples are bringing someone to Bible class or doing their Bible class lesson each week.

### 2. *Objective: Demonstrate allowing encouragement into our hearts and not allowing discouragement to enter our hearts*

Using 3x5 cards, have students list several ways people might encourage them to be faithful and obedient God. Write each one on a card. Then, have them list ways people or events might discourage them, and write these on cards. Using prepared containers, as in Wednesday Night Lesson 6, Activity 2, put encouragement into our hearts and discouragement into the trash can.

### 3. *Objective: Demonstrate using tools in Bible study as we build our lives for God.*

Ask students to imagine the tools that people would have used to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Make application to tools that we use for good Bible study. Show some of these tools in your classroom—maps, timeline, Bible dictionary, and their own lesson workbooks. Talk with the students about putting these tools to work.

## **Building Block Ideas**

*Willing  
to work*

## **Things to Get or Do for Wednesday Night**

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