



February 26, 2023

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for allowing your child to join our service. I'd love for you to use this newsletter to review this week's Bible story with your child at home.

Today, we'll learn that "Nehemiah Rebuilt the Walls" (Nehemiah 1–7). In today's Bible story, God's plan was to send the Messiah into the world through Abraham's family. Haman's evil plan could not stop God. God had a plan for Esther to rescue His people. By saving the Jews, God made the way for His Son, Jesus, to come into the world.

Review the gospel and encourage your child to speak with you if they have questions. In the Bible story today, we learned that Nehemiah prayed Scripture. Tell your child that praying Scripture helps keep our minds focused on truth and it reveals sin. Then pray, thanking God for Jesus' death and resurrection, knowing we have forgiveness and life through Him.

Grace and blessings in Christ,

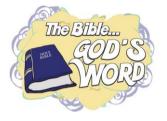
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Virginia Agape International Baptist Church

Nehemiah Rebuilt the Walls

BIBLE PASSAGE: Nehemiah 1–7 KEY PASSAGE: 2 Corinthians 7:10 BIG PICTURE QUESTION: *How should we feel when we sin?* When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and want to turn from our sin because we love Him.



God's people had lived in Babylon for 70 years. Then the king of Persia took over Babylon and let them go home. Some of God's people went home to Judah, but some of them stayed in Babylon. Nehemiah stayed and worked for the king.

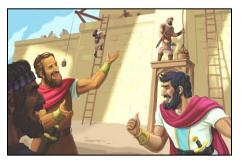
One day, some men came from Judah. The men had bad news: "The people in Jerusalem are in trouble. The walls around the city are broken, and the gates are burned down."

Nehemiah sat down and cried. Then he prayed and fasted. The king noticed him and asked, "What's wrong? Why are you sad?" Nehemiah was afraid; no one was supposed to be sad around the king. Nehemiah said, "The city where my ancestors are from is in ruins."

The king sent Nehemiah to Jerusalem. Nehemiah led the people to start rebuilding the walls and gates. The workers put in doors, bolts, and bars. They cut stones and lifted them into place on the wall, and they filled in gaps and holes. All around the city, people

worked side by side. Soon the wall was half as tall as it had once been!

But not everyone was happy that Jerusalem's walls were being rebuilt. Some men who lived nearby made a plan to





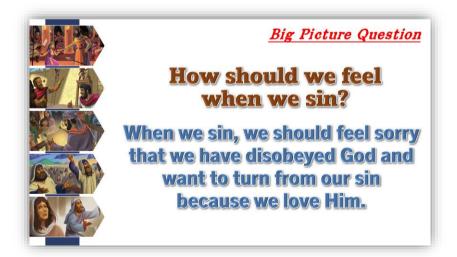
attack them and stop their work. God's people prayed and chose men to guard the walls all day and all night, but the people were discouraged.

Nehemiah reminded the people that God was with them. "Don't be afraid," he said. "God is great and powerful! Be ready. If our enemies attack us, God will fight for us!" Enemies could threaten God's people, but they could not make God's people stop building.

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 in the other. They were always ready to fight, just in case.

Nehemiah was a wise and good leader for God's people. In just 52 days, the wall was complete! The gates were repaired, and the wall was restored. The city was ready for more of God's people to come home. When all of Jerusalem's enemies heard that the wall had been rebuilt, they were afraid because they knew God was with His people.

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





- Remind your children not to play with electronic devices or toys such as smartphones or dolls, during our service.
- ✓ Our prayer is that the children's time spent in our church would encourage them to trust Christ as Savior, to submit to Him, and to live out the Gospel wherever they are.



"Jesus Was Born" (Matthew 1; Luke 2; John 1)



