

LESSON 11

NEHEMIAH STANDS UP FOR GOD UNTIL THE END

OBJECTIVES

1. To enable your students to encourage others and work together to overcome difficulties, as Nehemiah did.
2. To encourage students to reflect on their own lives and examine if they have built up spiritual walls.
3. To understand that everyone plays an important role in building up the church.

MEMORY VERSE

"But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one."

(2 Thessalonians 3:3)

PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank You for bringing us together to worship You on Your Sabbath day and to learn Your words together. Thank You for choosing us to be Your children. As Your children, we know that we should do what is right, even though others may cause problems for us. We ask that You help us see that no matter how big the problems seem to be, they are all small compared to You. Please help us to rely on You to overcome any difficulties we face. We also ask that You protect us and give us wisdom in our daily life so that we are not deceived by the enemy's lies. Lastly, please give us the strength to keep doing what is right and stand up for You to the end. Amen.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery and Spiritual Teaching

- a. The Rebuilding Project (Neh 3)
- b. The Enemy Attacks (Neh 4; 6)
- c. The Wall Completed (Neh 6:15-16)

2. Link to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Second Coming of Jesus Christ

3. Life Application

- a. How Would You Handle...?
- b. The Wall of Your Life

4. Activity—Pieces of the Puzzle



Background Knowledge for Teachers

1st Return

Zerubbabel

Rebuild the temple
(Ezra 1-6)

2nd Return

Ezra

Spiritual reformation
(Ezra 7-10)

3rd Return

Nehemiah

Rebuild the city wall
(Nehemiah 1-7)

When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, Jewish exiles had been there for nearly one hundred years. Some improvements in the city had been made. Under the leadership of Zerubbabel, a new temple had been built. Under the leadership of the scribe Ezra the Law of Moses had been instilled once again in the faith of the Israelites. But the walls and gates of the city were much as the Babylonians had left them after destroying the city in 586 B.C.

Nehemiah secretly inspected the city wall rubble before announcing his plans to the people living in Jerusalem. Even though he knew that success came from the Lord (Neh 2:20), he also knew that it did not mean that he should just sit back and relax. He wanted to know the scope of work required to repair the wall (Lk 14:28-29). His inspection confirmed what he had been told earlier by one of his brethren, Hanani: the wall of Jerusalem was broken down and the people there were in distress.

Nehemiah began his plan to rebuild the wall by first encouraging the people, and the people readily agreed to cooperate with his plan. His leadership also involved delegating the work of the wall-building project to a wide variety of people.

But some others were not so pleased by it. The leader of the opposition was Sanballat, governor of Samaria (north of Judah). Sanballat's main allies were Tobiah, governor of Ammon (east of Judah), and Geshem, leader of a league of Arab tribes that had occupied Moab and Edom (southeast of Judah). These enemies surrounded Judah on almost all fronts. They did not only mock the Jews for fun; rather, their mocking was meant to threaten. The mocking led to more plots to disrupt the work, including one plot to harm Nehemiah and make him sin against God.

When faced with the attacks from the enemies, Nehemiah didn't lead the people only to pray, or only to arm themselves for battle. He led them to do both! "Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night" (Neh 4:9). He told them to fight (Neh 4:14), but at the same time, he reminded them that God would fight for them (Neh 4:20).

Nehemiah's purpose for rebuilding the walls was not primarily to end the Jerusalem's vulnerability. He wanted to end the disgrace to God caused by the holy city's deteriorated condition. Even though opposition to the rebuilding intensified, the Jewish people persevered. And, in only fifty-two days, they made the city wall whole again. Their success brought glory and honor to God in the eyes of everyone, including their enemies.



Reaching Out to Your Students

The temple had been rebuilt, and the people's faith restored, but God's work was not complete yet because the wall of Jerusalem was broken down and the city gates burned with fire. Students may not understand why it was so important for the city of Jerusalem to have a well-built city wall. In this age of fighter jets and missiles capable of reducing an entire city to dust in seconds, it's difficult for students to appreciate the meaning of a city wall. Make them understand that without a wall, no city in Nehemiah's time would be safe from bandits, wild animals, and enemies. The more developed a city became, the more need there was for a wall. The walls were extremely thick and high, as they were usually the only real means of defense for a city. It was necessary to protect the assets in Jerusalem, such as the temple and the people living in the city. Rebuilding the broken city wall required a united effort from the Jewish people. Let your students discover that every believer has work to do, just as every person had a hand in helping Nehemiah rebuild the wall.

Your students, like most people, face problems on a daily basis. They can be small problems, such as how to solve that tricky math problem, or big problems, such as how to stop that one bully in school. When they were younger, it was normal for them to seek help from the adults around them, whether it was their teachers or their parents. However, your students are now at the age where they want to be independent and solve their own problems. It is common to hear, "No, I can do it on my own!" as a response to, "Do you need help?" While your students may be able to solve the majority of their problems on their own, they may still lack the ability to solve abstract problems correctly, such as why their friends are nice one day, but mean the next. Through the lesson today, show them how they can encourage each other when facing a problem and how they can pray for one another, as a group, to help with a problem. Share personal testimonies of how God answers prayers and strengthens the hands of His workers.



Opener

5 Minutes

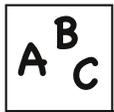
Activity: "Lookout!"

1. Choose two students. One will be the "inside" student and the other will be the "outside" student.
2. Have the remainder of the class form a tight circle by locking arms while facing outward.
3. The "inside" student will stand in the middle of the circle. The "outside" student will be outside of the circle.
 - The object is for the "outside" student to try to tag the "inside" student.
 - The job for the students forming the circle is to protect the "inside" student.

Set a limited amount of time for the “outside” student to try to tag the “inside” student. Give other students the opportunity to be the “inside” and “outside” students.

Today, we are going to learn about how evil people tried to cause problems in Nehemiah’s Jerusalem wall-building project. These evil people came up with many different ways to make things difficult for Nehemiah and the Jewish people. But through prayer and relying on God, they were able to continue and finish building the wall in less than two months! God protected His people and added to their strength!

The Bible says that our enemy is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet 5:8). But with God’s help, and the help of our brothers and sisters, we can be protected from the attack of the enemy. Compare the game just played to this truth. The lion is like the student on the outside trying to tag the student on the inside. By staying united and praying for one another, we can be protected from the attacks of the enemy.



Vocabulary

inhabitants: the people who live in a place (e.g., “inhabitants of Jerusalem” referred to people living in Jerusalem)

Nethinim: people given to the Levites to be their servants, doing work specifically related to the service of the temple

feeble: weak, faint, lacking strength

provoke: to do something deliberately to anger or annoy another

mock: to laugh at; to make fun of



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

The Rebuilding Project

Chapter three in the Book of Nehemiah may seem uninteresting at first glance because it contains so many unpronounceable names and long-forgotten people! Sometimes, when we are reading the Bible, we may think that reading a chapter like this is not important and also extremely boring. However, this chapter tells the story of the work of repairing the gates and walls of Jerusalem. From this chapter, we can see how Nehemiah went about this project, the work that was actually done, and the people behind the work.

God specifically recorded these names for a purpose. There are many chapters like this in the Bible, and each of these chapters should really encourage us. They show us that God has not forgotten our names either. He loves to record the names of people. He may be writing your name down in some great book right now for the future (Mal 3:16)!

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to the students now. As you go over the different gates and the work that was done on them, ask the students to record the passage reference for each gate, as well as the names of the people who worked on the gates. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version for reference.

Who was working? How did they split the work?

With the wisdom God gave him, Nehemiah set different people to work on different sections of the wall. This chapter is centered on the ten gates of the city of Jerusalem. Nehemiah assigned each person or group of people to a certain section of the wall, and this was recorded in order of the gates that gave access to the city. Most likely, each person worked on the part of the wall nearest to their own houses so that they were personally involved in rebuilding the wall.

As we read through the selected verses below, follow the map of the Jerusalem city wall.

1. Next to the each gate on the map, write the passage where the work was recorded in the Bible.
2. In the box on the right, write the name of the person(s) or group of people who helped rebuild the wall.
3. Lastly, record the name of those who did not help rebuild the wall.

Let’s read Nehemiah, chapter 3!

FOR TEACHERS

Read Nehemiah chapter 3 with the students. Refer to the chart provided in this lesson to help the students fill out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1.

This chapter teaches us about cooperation. We all know that the church is the body of Christ with many members, and we are the members. Numerous individuals were involved in the work, and they all worked on different sections of the wall! This long list of volunteers included people who lived in Jerusalem, as well as people who lived in surrounding cities (e.g., Jericho, Tekoa, Mizpah, etc.). Priests, Levites, Nethinims, goldsmiths, perfumers, leaders, merchants, and women helped repair the walls. Even though perfumers probably didn't know much about building walls, they still pitched in to help! The two leaders who each ruled one half of Jerusalem both had hands-on involvement in rebuilding the wall. But, we also learned very specifically that the nobles of the Tekoites refused to do any work. How beautiful is it to have God remember our names and record it according to what we've done! So, make sure that when God writes about us, it's for a good reason—for working hard or for working carefully like Baruch (3:20)—and not because we are not working, like the nobles of Tekoa.

FOR TEACHERS

Ensure that all the students have filled out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 correctly, and then hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #2. The students will be filling in the blanks on the worksheet as you go over this section. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version for reference.

The Enemy Attacks

The Bible gives us the name of three enemies who didn't want the Jerusalem city wall to be fixed. They continuously caused trouble for Nehemiah. Recorded in Nehemiah 2:19, their names were:

- Sanballat the Horonite
- Tobiah the Ammonite
- Geshem the Arab

Let's study Nehemiah chapters 4 and 6 to see how Nehemiah dealt with these increasing attacks from his enemies. We'll find that no matter how difficult the enemies made things, God's work could not be stopped.

Attempt #1 (Neh 4:1-6)

The enemies were furious that the Jewish people were starting to rebuild their city wall and fix the gates. The first tactic they used to stop this work was to mock and laugh at the Jewish people for rebuilding the broken wall and gates. How did they mock the Jewish people? Let's read verses 2-3 in chapter 4.

But how did Nehemiah respond to this? Let's continue reading verses 4-5. Nehemiah kept everyone's mind on the work, as verse 6 says, "For the people had a mind to work." So the enemy's first attempt failed.

When we are made fun of by people because of what we believe in or what we do for God, we should always tell it to God first and pray that He will give us the strength to overcome.

Attempt #2 (Neh 4:6-23)

The Jewish people didn't give up, in fact the opposite happened. They built the wall up to half of its height (4:6). But their enemies didn't give up either. Next, how did they attack Nehemiah and the people? Let's see by reading verses 7-8. This time it was serious! The people were trying to work on construction, but now they were under attack!

This time, Nehemiah's response was well planned out.

1. Let's read verse 9. Nehemiah prayed to God again, but he did more than just that. He also set people to be watchmen to keep watch for the enemy's attack day and night.
2. Let's continue by reading verses 13-14. He set men at sections of the wall where it was lower or had openings, most likely to prevent a sneak attack from the enemies.
3. In verse 16, it recorded that he made half the men work on construction, while the other half he turned into soldiers, making them wear armor, hold spears, shields, and bows, to stand watch to fight!
4. But he made sure that even those who were working on construction were armed, making them hold weapons in one hand (4:17).
5. Nehemiah also got involved, too. What did he do? We can refer to verse 18. He stood watch and had a trumpet blower by his side. If he saw the enemy attacking, he would ask the trumpet blower to blow the trumpet and sound the alarm!
6. Everyone was keeping watch and guarding by night, and then working by day (4:22). How tiring this must have been. But they knew the importance of this work and kept soldiering on!

Attempt #3 (Neh 6:1-4)

Moving on to chapter 6. Now, the wall was rebuilt so there were no gaps left. Next, the enemy planned to harm Nehemiah physically and also tried to distract Nehemiah from the work of rebuilding the entire wall. Let's read verse 2.

Did Nehemiah go? NO. Let's read verse 3. The enemies tried to distract Nehemiah four times. All four times Nehemiah sent back the same reply. Nehemiah kept his focus on God's work.

If people try to harm us or distract us from doing what is right, we should learn from Nehemiah and firmly say, "NO." Keep our mind focused on God's work and on doing what is right.

Attempt #4 (Neh 6:5-9)

The enemy was really sneaky. They decided that since they couldn't convince Nehemiah to come out, they would create a lie about Nehemiah and the people in Jerusalem. What did they say? Let's read verses 5-7.

Nehemiah was getting used to the attacks by now. Straight away he confirmed that it was a lie (4:8), and then he prayed to God to strengthen his hands (4:9). Another failed attempt by the enemy!

Attempt #5 (Neh 6:10-14)

The enemies weren't giving up yet. They made one final attempt. Let's read verse 10. They hired Shemaiah to be their spy. Shemaiah pretended to prophesy, saying that Nehemiah should go into the temple of God and hide because enemies were coming to kill him. He tried to make Nehemiah sin against God!

This was by far the toughest thing for Nehemiah to face. Thank God that Nehemiah knew the commandments of God VERY clearly. Only priests and Levites were allowed into the temple. He was forbidden from entering. Do we

know the commandments of God as clearly as Nehemiah? It is important to read the Bible and pray so that we do not unknowingly break the commandment of God.

The Wall Is Completed!

Let us read Nehemiah 6:15-16. The city wall was finished in only fifty-two days! Imagine how happy everyone must have been to see the work of their hands completed. More importantly, to see how God had protected them! It would have been a very tiring time for them, having to work during the day and then take turns to watch for enemies at night.

We have learned that our enemies, Satan or other people, will use many different ways to scare us and stop us from working for God and doing what is right. But no matter how much people try to stop us from doing God's work, from doing what is right, God's work can never be stopped! As long as we have the heart to do it and don't mind working extra, while always keeping watch, God will help us and give us strength to do what is right and get the work done.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

The Lord's Second Coming will take place on the Last Day when He descends from heaven to judge the world; the righteous will receive eternal life, while the wicked will be condemned.

Today, we learned that every time the enemy attacked Nehemiah, he would pray to God or turn his focus to God and not the enemy's attack. Nehemiah was able to stand firm in God's way until the very end. Never once did he try to plan anything bad for the enemies. Not once did he speak badly to them. He always put his problems in prayers to God. Let us read again Nehemiah 6:14.

The Bible doesn't record what happened to Sanballat after this, but it said that even after all these evil things had been done, Tobiah was still very powerful, even in the Jewish community. This was because he married a Jewish woman and even got help from the high priest! It didn't look like God punished them straight away, or at all, for all the bad things they tried to do to stop Nehemiah and the Jewish people.

Even though those who hurt us or cause us problems may not be punished straight away, we must still do what is right in the eyes of God. Like Nehemiah, we must stand up for God until the end! It doesn't matter what happens to our enemies, we need to focus on God's work and prayer. This is because we know that Jesus will surely come again. And when He does, He will give us the reward we deserve and will punish the wicked people according to what they have done.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **Who are the people who worked on the various sections of the wall?** High priest Eliashib, priests, Levites, the Nethinims, leaders, women/daughters, goldsmiths, perfumers, merchants, and people from other cities.
2. **Who didn't work on the wall?** The nobles of the Tekoites.
3. **Who were the enemies of Nehemiah and the Jewish people?** Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arab.
4. **What were the difficulties Nehemiah and the Jewish people faced?** They were discouraged, insulted, in danger of physical harm, and lies were spread about them.
5. **The enemies laughed at the Jewish people to discourage them from working on the wall. Did it work?** No. Nehemiah prayed, and the people still had the mind to work.
6. **When the enemies came up with the plan to attack the Jewish people and cause confusion on the worksite, what did Nehemiah do?** Nehemiah prayed to God again, and then set people to keep watch and to guard different sections of the wall during the day and the night. He made half the people stand watch ready to fight, while the other half worked on construction. But everyone was required to keep weapons by their side.
7. **How did Sanballat plan to harm Nehemiah physically?** By sending messengers to Nehemiah and telling Nehemiah to meet them out in villages in the plain of Ono.
8. **Did Nehemiah fall for that?** No, he kept his focus on the work of God.
9. **The enemies then told a lie in a letter, saying that Nehemiah had prophets in other countries proclaiming that he was now king. What did Nehemiah do?** Nehemiah wasn't fooled and prayed to God again to strengthen his hands.
10. **Sanballat and Tobiah had one more plan. They hired Shemaiah to pretend to be Nehemiah's friend. What did Shemaiah tell Nehemiah to do?** He told Nehemiah to go hide inside the temple for protection from people who wanted to kill him.
11. **How did Nehemiah respond to Shemaiah?** Nehemiah said, "No," very firmly because he knew God's law well; only the priest and Levites could go into the temple.
12. **How long did it take the Jewish people to finish the rebuilding of the wall?** Fifty-two days.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. HOW WOULD YOU HANDLE IT?

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1 and ask students to complete it. Then, have some volunteers share their answers.]

Read these difficult problems. Then, fill in one of your own problems in the empty box provided. Remember how Nehemiah prayed and then made plans to overcome the difficulties he faced. Write down what you can do about the problems listed.

2. THE WALLS OF YOUR LIFE

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2 to the students. Guide them to complete it using the instructions provided.]

"Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls." (Prov 25: 28)

This verse teaches us that if we can't rule over our own spirit, we are like a city without walls. To be able to "rule" our spirit means to have self-control.

(1) Examine the wall in your life

- Is your wall built up tall and strong?
 - Do we spend enough time every day to read the Bible so that we know what pleases God?
 - Do we spend enough time in prayer? (Jude 20)
 - Are we obeying God's word in actions? (James 1:22)
- Or, is your wall very weak, cracked, and even broken down in some places?
 - Do you feel that the enemy is attacking you from every side and you fall easily into temptation?
 - Do we sometimes lose our self-control and end up doing what doesn't please God?
 - Do we find it difficult to live by the spirit?

(2) Complete the "wall" on the worksheet

- Strong Bricks
 - Write things you have done well or things you can do to fortify and make your wall stronger.
 - Color them in a strong color.
- Broken Wall
 - Write things that have made your wall weak, and what you can do to build it up again.
 - Color it in a "need fixing" color.

REMEMBER: When you are rebuilding your wall, your enemies will not be happy and will do everything to try and stop you! Don't give up in prayer. Remember how Nehemiah overcame his enemies with God's help, and how you can do it, too!



Activity

Pieces of the Puzzle

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To understand that even though we may not see the whole picture, God makes sure everything fits.

Materials

- 24 or 36-piece puzzle
 - Do not show students the original picture of complete puzzle
- A blank jigsaw puzzle with large pieces, disassembled
 - Number of pieces must equal the number of students and teachers involved
 - To make your own blank puzzle, type "blank jigsaw puzzle template" into a web search engine
- A piece of cardboard large enough for the blank puzzle to be glued on
- Glue

First puzzle

Have the students work together putting the 24 or 36-piece puzzle together. Discuss with the students as they put it together what they think the completed picture will be. Once the puzzle is assembled, discuss:

- How God is working through believers to accomplish His work. Each believer is a piece of the bigger picture (1 Pet 2:4-6).
- We may not always see the bigger picture as we do the work God has given us to do. The same idea can be applied to the puzzle. When we first started, if we had picked up only one or two pieces, it would have been difficult to tell what the completed picture was.
- Was it difficult to put the puzzle together without first seeing the picture? Yes, it would have been easier if we knew what the picture was. But, as we faithfully serve and obey God, one day we will see how everyone's work fits together.
- What difficulties did we face while putting the puzzle together? [Let students think and discuss.] How did we solve the difficulties, or how could we have solved it better?

- [Take a piece or two from the puzzle.] If someone chooses not to serve or chooses to give up halfway, does that mean God's work cannot be completed? No. Nothing can stop God's work. The person that chooses to quit will miss out on the blessings that come from serving the Lord.

Second puzzle

Give everyone a piece of puzzle. On the front of the piece, ask each student to write down:

- One thing they can do to build up their faith;
- One thing they can do to build up the class;
- One thing they can do to build up the church.

Then, have everyone put the pieces of the puzzle together. Once assembled, stick it onto the cardboard, give the puzzle a name, and hang it up in the classroom!

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. True
2. False
3. weapon
4. finished
5. He prayed to God to strengthened his hands and kept the people's focus on the work.
6. Rebuilding our spiritual wall means to build up our defenses against things that may cause us to stray from God or things that may cause us to sin against God. Answers may vary.
7. The wall could not have been finished so quickly without the Jewish people working together as one. Each individual played an important part in building up the wall as a whole. Answers may vary.

WHO DID THE WORK? (NEHEMIAH 3)

| Name of the Gate | Where was it recorded? | Who did the work? |
|------------------|------------------------|--|
| Sheep Gate | 3:1 | The high priest Eliashib himself and other priests |
| Fish Gate | 3:3 | Sons of Hassenaah |
| | 3:5 | The nobles of the Tekoites |
| Old Gate | 3:6 | Jehoiada |
| | 3:8 | The goldsmith Uzziel and the perfumer Hananiah |
| | 3:9 | Rephaiah, leader of half the district of Jerusalem |
| | 3:12 | Shallum, the leader of the other half of Jerusalem, as well as his daughters |
| Valley Gate | 3:13 | Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah |
| Refuse Gate | 3:14 | Malchijah the son of Rechab, leader of the district of Beth Hacerem |
| Fountain Gate | 3:15 | Shallun, one leader of the district of Mizpah; he brought the people of Mizpah along to work with him, too (3:7) |
| | 3:17 | Levites |
| Water Gate | 3:26 | The Nethinims |
| Horse Gate | 3:28 | Priests |
| East Gate | 3:29 | Shemaiah |
| Sheep Gate | 3:32 | Merchants |

Who Didn't Work?

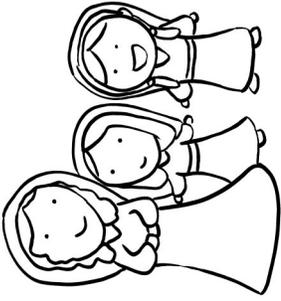
The nobles of the Tekoites (3:5)

Who Did Work?

- High Priest Eliashib (3:1)
- Priests (3:1, 22)
- Levites (3:17)
- The Nethinims (3:26)
- Goldsmiths (3:8, 32)
- Perfumers (3:8)
- Leaders (3:12, 15, 19)
- Daughters/Women (3:12)
- Merchants (3:32)
- Everyone!**

| Attempt | Bible Passage | Enemy's Attack | Nehemiah's Action |
|---------|---------------|---|---|
| 1 | (4:1-6) | They mocked and laughed at the Jews. Sanballat: "What are these feeble Jews doing?" Tobiah: "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall." | 1. Prayed to God. (4:4-5) "God, we are despised! Do not forget their sins, because they have provoked you to anger before the builders" 2. Kept the people's mind on the work (4:6) |
| 2 | (4:6-23) | They planned to attack Jerusalem, cause confusion and kill the Jews while they worked on the wall. "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease." | 1. Prayed to God (4:9) 2. Set watch day and night (4:9) 3. Set men at the openings of the wall to fight in case of an attack (4:13-14) 4. Set half the men to work on the wall, half to stand watch to fight (4:16) 5. Those who were building needed to hold weapons with one hand (4:17) 6. The trumpet blower stood by Nehemiah as he watched for enemies (4:18-20) 7. Everyone guarded by night, worked by day (4:22) |
| 3 | (6:1-4) | They planned to hurt Nehemiah physically by calling him to come out of the city. Sanballat sent messengers to tell Nehemiah, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono" He sent this message FOUR times. | 1. Nehemiah focused on the work God had set for him and replied, "I am doing a great work, so I cannot come down. Why should I stop this work and go to you?" 2. Nehemiah replied the same FOUR times. |
| 4 | (6:5-9) | They led and tried to make Nehemiah and the people afraid. "It is reported among the nations that you and the Jews plan to rebel!" "They will be afraid, their hands will be weak and the work will not be done!" | 1. Nehemiah confirmed this was a lie. 2. Prayed to God to strengthen his hands (4:9) |
| 5 | (6:10-14) | They sent the spy Shemaiah to prophesy falsely to make Nehemiah sin against God. "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you." | 1. Nehemiah knew God's commandment, only priests and Levites could go into the temple. It was forbidden for him to go into the temple! (6:11) 2. He was aware that God did not send Shemaiah to prophecy (6:12) 3. He prayed to God to remember the evil ways of Tobiah and Sanballat and other prophets they hired to make Nehemiah afraid (6:14) |

Who Did the Work? (Nehemiah 3)

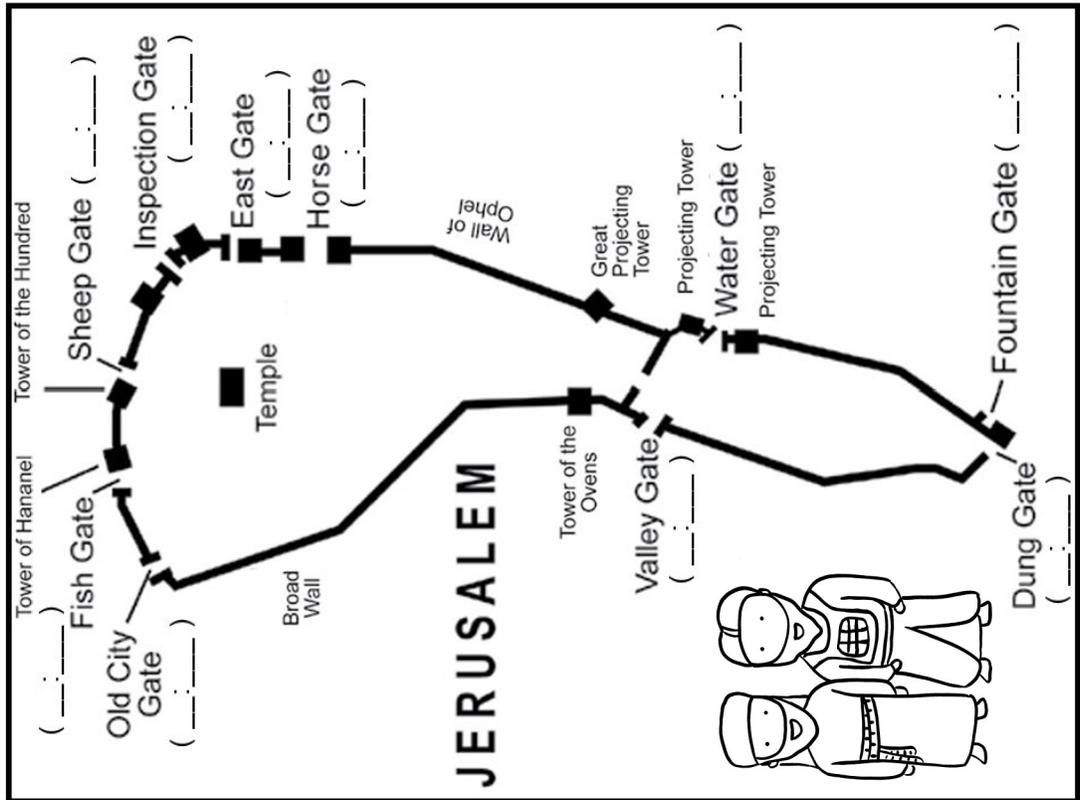
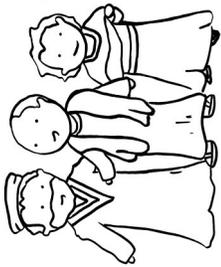


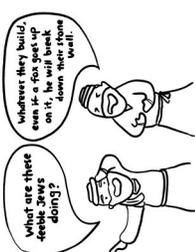
Who Did Work?

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Who Didn't Work?

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| Attempt | Bible Passage | Enemy's Attack | Nehemiah's Action |
|---------|---------------|--|---|
| 1 | (4:1-6) | <p>They mocked and laughed at the Jews. Sanballat: "What are these feeble Jews doing?" Tobiah: "Whatever they build, if even a _____ goes up on it, he will _____ down their stone wall."</p> | <p>1. Prayed to God. [_____] "God, we are despised! Do not forget their sins, because they have provoked you to anger before the builders" 2. Kept the people's mind on the work [_____]</p> |
| 2 | (4:16-23) | <p>They planned to attack Jerusalem, cause confusion and kill the Jews while they worked on the wall. "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease." </p> | <p>1. P _____ (4:9) 2. S _____ (4:9) 3. Set men at the openings of the wall to fight in case of an attack (4:13-14) 4. Set half the men to _____ half to _____ (4:16) 5. Those who were building needed to hold _____ with one hand (4:17) 6. The trumpet blower stood by Nehemiah as he watched for enemies (4:18-20) 7. Everyone guarded by night, worked by day (4: _____)</p> |
| 3 | [_____] | <p>They planned to hurt Nehemiah physically by calling him to come out of the city. Sanballat sent messengers to tell Nehemiah, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono" He sent this message _____ times.</p> | <p>1. Nehemiah focused on the work God had set for him and replied, "I am doing a _____, so I cannot come down. Why should I _____ this work and go to you?" 2. Nehemiah replied the same _____ times.</p> |
| 4 | (6:5-9) | <p>They _____ and tried to make Nehemiah and the people afraid. "It is reported among the nations that you and the Jews plan to rebel!" "They will be afraid, their _____ will be _____ and the work will not be done!"</p> | <p>1. Nehemiah confirmed this was a lie. 2. Prayed to God to s _____ his hands (4:9)</p> |
| 5 | [_____] | <p>They sent the spy S _____ to prophesy falsely to make Nehemiah _____ against God. "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the _____ and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you."</p> | <p>1. Nehemiah knew God's commandment, only priests and Levites could go into the temple. It was forbidden for him to go into the temple! (6:11) 2. He was aware that God did not send S _____ to prophesy (6:12) 3. He prayed to God to remember the evil ways of Tobiah and Sanballat and other prophets they hired to make Nehemiah afraid (6: _____)</p> |

How would YOU HANDLE IT?

Read these difficult problems. Then, fill in one of your own problems in the empty box provided. Remember how Nehemiah prayed and then made plans to overcome the difficulties he faced. Write down what you can do about the problems listed.

| Scenario/Problem | I will feel... | What <u>NOT</u> to do | What I <u>SHOULD</u> do: (step by step in order) |
|---|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| <p>Some of your classmates are laughing about the art project that you and your friends are doing for school.</p> | | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. |
| <p>Your team is trying the best to get a good score. Then, a bully from another team comes and threatens to beat up one of your team members.</p> | | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. |
| <p>Your friends in school laugh at you when you say grace before meals at lunch time.</p> | | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. |
| <p></p> | | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. |

The Walls of Your Life

Examine the wall in your spiritual life.

- Is your wall built up tall and strong?
 - o Do we spend enough time every day to read the Bible so that we know what pleases God?
 - o Do we spend enough time in _____? (Jude 20)
 - o Are we _____ God’s word in actions? (James 1:22)
- Or, is your wall very weak, cracked, and even broken down in some places?
 - o Do you feel that the enemy is attacking you from every side and you fall easily into temptation?
 - o Do we sometimes lose our self-control and end up doing what doesn’t please God?
 - o Do we find it difficult to live by the spirit?

WHOEVER HAS NO
Rule
 OVER HIS OWN
 SPIRIT
 IS LIKE A CITY
BROKEN DOWN,
 WITHOUT WALLS.

Prov 25:28

STRONG BRICKS: Write the things you have done well or things you can do to fortify and make your wall stronger. (Color it in a “strong” color.)

BROKEN WALL: Write the things that have made your wall weak, and what you can do to build it up again. (Color it in a “weak” color.)

REMEMBER: When you are rebuilding your wall, your “enemies” will not be happy and will do everything to try and stop you! Don’t let them get the better of you and **DON’T** give up in prayer. Remember how Nehemiah overcame his enemies with God’s help, and how you can do it, too!

E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 11—Nehemiah Stands Up for God Until the End

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(2 Thessalonians 3:3)**

True or False

1. Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem opposed Nehemiah's work to rebuild the city wall. _____
2. Nehemiah did not have helpers when rebuilding the city wall. _____

Fill In the Blank

3. "Those who were rebuilding the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a _____." (Neh 4:17)
4. "So the wall was _____ on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days." (Neh 6:15)

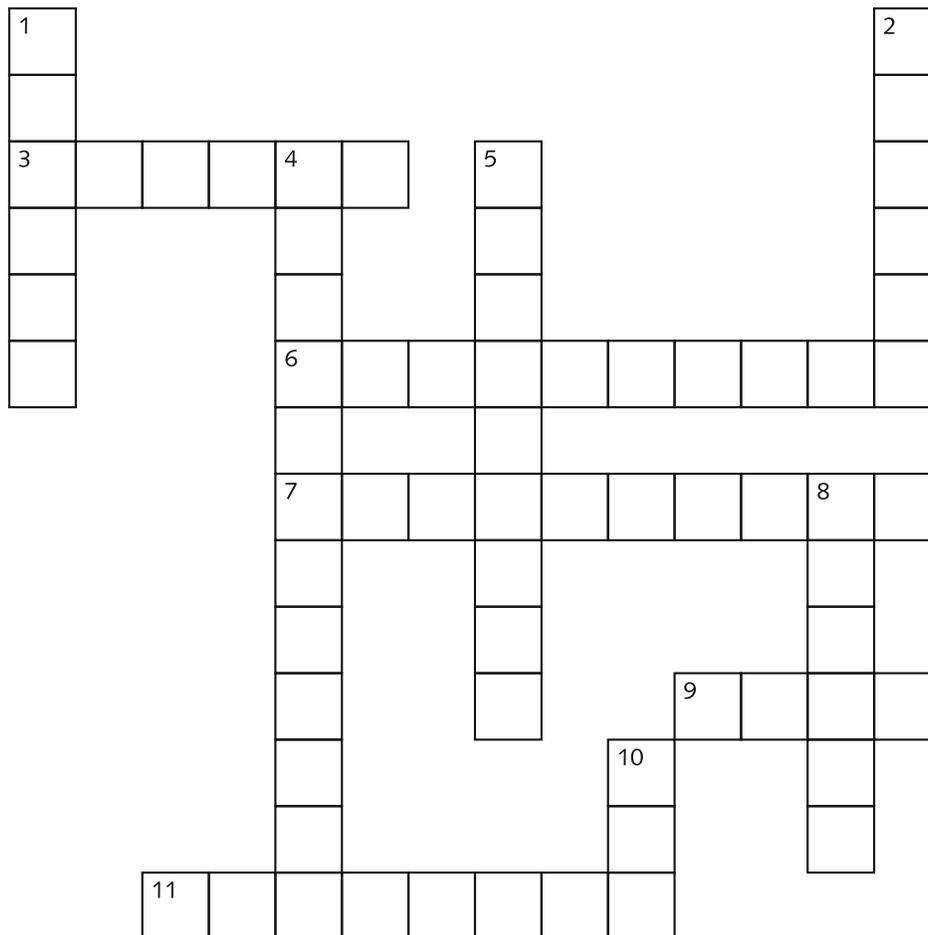
Short Answer

5. What did Nehemiah do when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem tried to disrupt his work by mocking the Jewish people and by spreading lies about them?

6. What does it mean to rebuild our spiritual wall? What are some ways you can build up your own spiritual wall?

7. What is the significance of the Jewish people working together in building the city walls? In what ways do your peers in church help you in building your spiritual wall?

Nehemiah Stands Up for God Until the End



Across

3. Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, and all of them conspired together to come and ____ Jerusalem and create confusion (Neh 4:7-8)
6. For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done." Now therefore, O God, ____ my hands (Neh 6:9)
7. But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were ____ the wall, that he was furious and very indignant and mocked the Jews (Neh 4:1)
9. So we built the ____, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work (Neh 4:6)
11. So the wall was ____ on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days (Neh 6:15)

Down

1. Nevertheless we made our ____ to God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night (Neh 4:9)
2. Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a ____ (Neh 4:17)
4. So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at ____, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah (Neh 4:16)
5. After him Baruch the son of Zabbai ____ repaired the other section (Neh 3:20)
8. Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their ____ did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord (Neh 3:5)
10. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our ____ will fight for us (Neh 4:20)