

THE WALLS REBUILT

Nehemiah 1-6



When God's people were freed from exile, Nehemiah stayed behind in Persia. Nehemiah was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes. One day, Nehemiah heard that the wall in Jerusalem was broken down and the gates were burned. Nehemiah wept over the sad news. He prayed, "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 said that he was sad because Jerusalem was in ruins. The king said, "What is your request?" Nehemiah prayed and then said, "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 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." The

people started building, but Sanballat and Tobiah were not happy. They planned to attack Jerusalem so the building would stop. The people prayed to God and appointed guards to protect them. Each builder carried a weapon with him. 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.

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.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

» Draw a line through each statement that is false.

Nehemiah was sad because Jerusalem was in trouble.

King Artaxerxes did not let Nehemiah go to Jerusalem.

Nehemiah encouraged God's people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Everyone was happy the walls were being rebuilt, and no one tried to stop them.

The builders didn't need weapons while they were rebuilding the walls.

Sanballat and Tobiah said God's people planned to rebel against King Artaxerxes.

God's people rebuilt the wall in three years.

» What does this story teach us about God?

» How did Nehemiah and the people respond to their enemies?

GOSPEL DISCUSSION

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. Your teacher would be happy to answer questions or tell you more about how you can trust in Jesus as your Savior.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

- » Before Nehemiah began rebuilding the walls, he went to God in prayer. Why do you think he did this?

- » What is something, big or small, you can pray about before you take action?

- » What are some ways we can be encouraged when we face challenges, like Nehemiah and the people of God did as they built the wall?

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.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

» Find John 20:31 in your Bible and write the words below.

» Write a prayer to God thanking God for His faithfulness, knowing that nothing can stop His good plans.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

☐ Proverbs 16:7

☐ Psalm 34:7

☐ Isaiah 54:17

☐ Matthew 5:44

☐ Psalm 23:5

☐ Luke 6:27