

Jerusalem's Walls Were Rebuilt

BIBLE PASSAGE: Nehemiah 3:1–6:16

MAIN POINT: God used Nehemiah to lead His people as they rebuilt Jerusalem's walls.

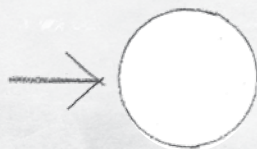
KEY PASSAGE: Lamentations 3:22-23

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Does God keep His promises? Yes, God is always faithful even when we are not.

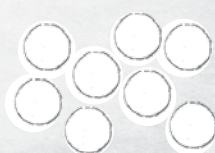
SMALL GROUP OPENING
(10–15 MINUTES)
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LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY
(25–30 MINUTES)
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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(25–30 MINUTES)
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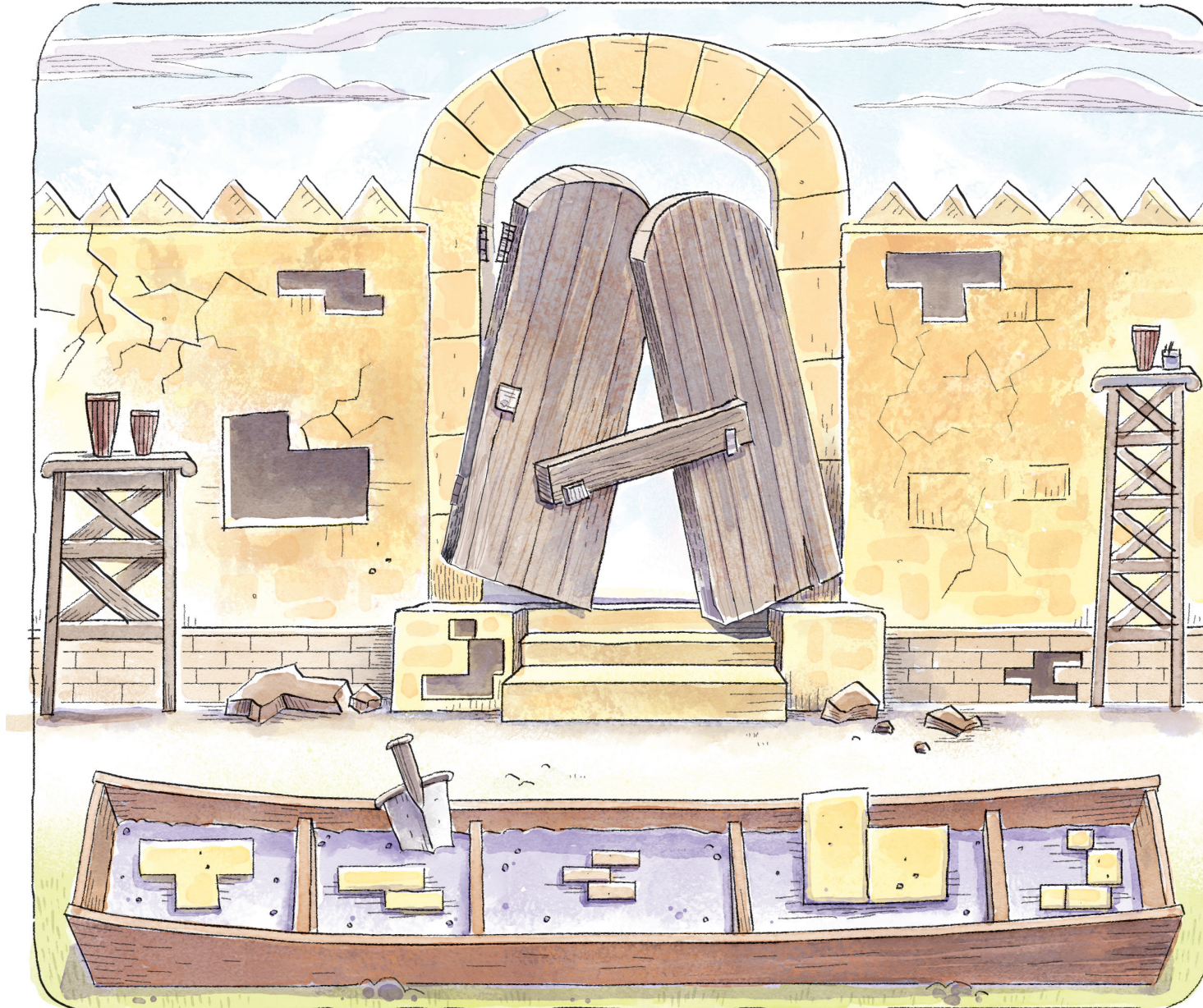
Leader BIBLE STUDY

When the Babylonians took God's people to Babylon, they destroyed Jerusalem. God's people returned years later to rebuild the temple, but when they faced opposition in rebuilding the rest of Jerusalem, they stopped. Some 70 years passed, and the walls and gates around the city were still ruined.

City walls and gates were very important in Bible times. Walls were built to be several feet thick. They protected a city from its enemies and provided a sense of safety and security. Gates were the center of city life, the meeting place for commercial and social transactions. Without these structures, the surviving remnant of God's people struggled

Repair the Wall

INSTRUCTIONS: Draw a line connecting each broken piece with where it goes on the wall.



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TGP FAMILY APP

KEY PASSAGE:

Lamentations 3:22-23

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Does God keep His promises?
Yes, God is always faithful.

BIBLE STORY:

JERUSALEM'S WALLS WERE REBUILT

- God led Nehemiah to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem.
- Everyone worked together.
- Their enemies did not want God's people to repair the walls.
- God's people kept working and finished rebuilding the wall.

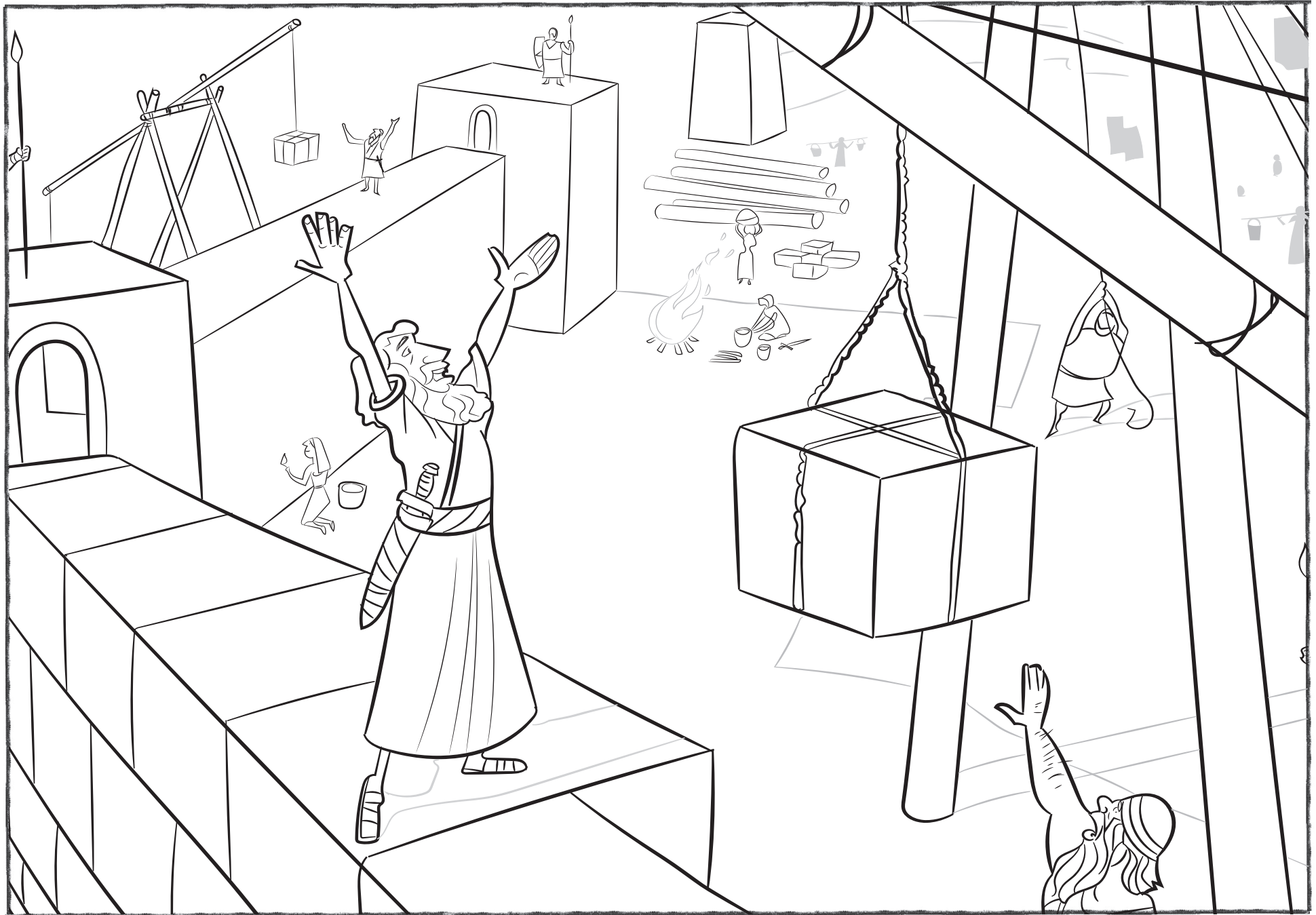
FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Talk about a time you worked together as a family to complete a task.
- What made Nehemiah a good leader for God's people?
- How does Jesus protect us from our enemies of sin and death?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Visit an elderly neighbor's home to help with repairs or other household tasks.
- Join a neighborhood beautification project to help clean up areas in your city that need attention.

Preschool Activity Pages
Unit 18, Session 4

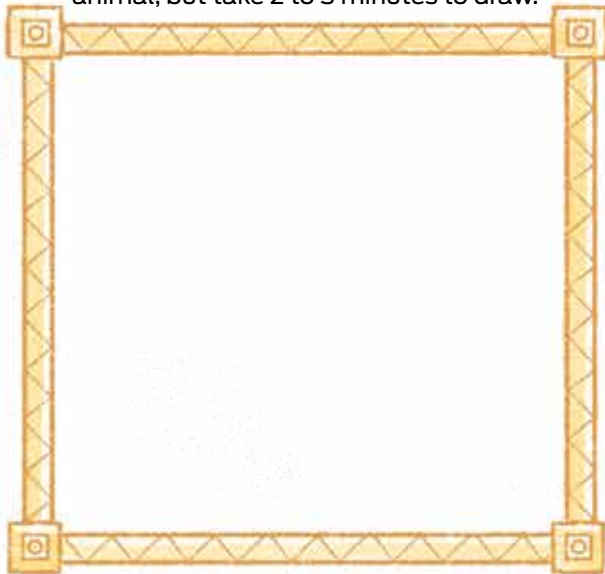


Timed Art

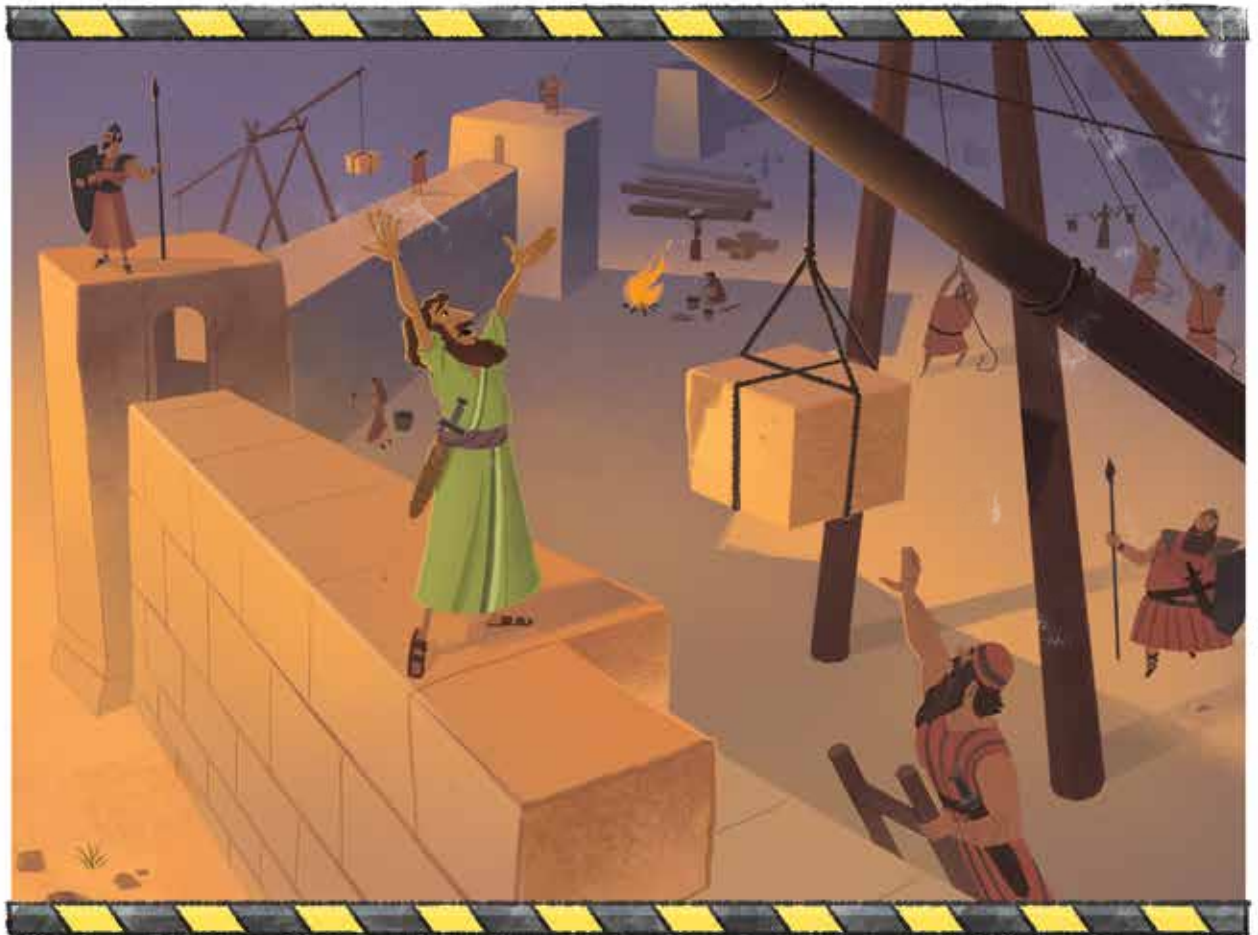
In the first frame, draw a picture of your favorite animal in 10 seconds.



Draw a picture in the second frame of the same animal, but take 2 to 3 minutes to draw.

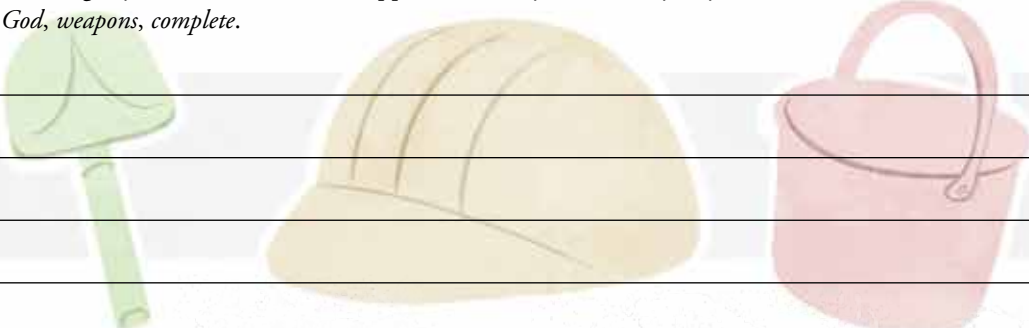


Which drawing looks better? Why?



In a Nutshell

Use the following key words to write what happened in today's Bible story in your own words: *Nehemiah, walls, gates, enemies, God, weapons, complete.*



and was vulnerable to attack.

Nehemiah traveled from Persia to Jerusalem to lead the effort in rebuilding Jerusalem's walls. Nehemiah's leadership was effective. Nehemiah 3 describes all the people working together to rebuild the gates and walls.

But it wasn't long before Nehemiah met opposition from local governors who planned to attack God's people. God's people armed themselves and kept working. They completed the wall in just 52 days.

Note how their enemies reacted: "All the surrounding nations were intimidated and lost their confidence, for they realized that this task had been accomplished by our God" (Neh. 6:16).

Now God's people were protected from their enemies. Help kids see that God provided the way for us to be protected from our enemies, sin and death. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. When we repent and trust in Jesus, He frees us from sin and death. We still sin, but we are no longer slaves to sin. (See Rom. 6:17-18.) We may die a physical death as a result of sin, but we have eternal life. (See John 11:25-26; Rom. 6:23.)

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The BIBLE STORY

Jerusalem's Walls Were Rebuilt

Nehemiah 3:1–6:16

Nehemiah (NEE huh MIGH uh) **went to Jerusalem to help the people rebuild the city walls. The people started working together to fix the walls and the burned-down gates.** The walls and gates had special names. Some of the people worked on the Fish Gate. The Fish Gate was the entrance to the fish market. Some people worked on the Sheep Gate; this gate led to the place men gathered to sell sheep. Others worked on the Valley Gate, the Old Gate, and the Horse Gate.

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!

Not everyone was happy that Jerusalem's walls were being rebuilt. **Some men who lived nearby were angry. Sanballat** (san BAL uht) **and Tobiah** (toh BIGH uh) **mocked the people. Sanballat said, “What do these people think they are doing? These walls are just piles of trash and dirt. They can't be rebuilt!”**

Nehemiah prayed. God's people kept working on the walls, but their enemies made a plan to attack them and stop their work. God's people prayed and assigned men to guard the walls all day and all night, but they were discouraged. “Our enemies are everywhere,” they said.

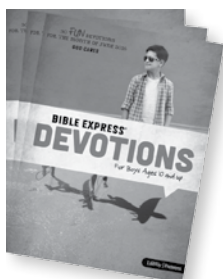
Nehemiah reminded the people that God was with them. “Do not be afraid. God is great and powerful!” Nehemiah said. “Be ready. **If our enemies attack us, God will fight for us!**” Sanballat and Tobiah could threaten

God's people, but they could not make God's people stop building. Sanballat and Tobiah were not in charge of rebuilding the wall; God was!

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 of God's people while they worked. He helped them solve any problems they had, and he did not give in to their enemies. **The people kept working very hard. In just 52 days, the wall was complete!** The gates were repaired, and the wall was restored. **When all of Jerusalem's enemies heard that the wall had been rebuilt, they were afraid because they knew God was with His people.**

Christ Connection: Nehemiah led the people to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem to protect them from their enemies. Jesus came to protect us from our enemies. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue people from sin and death.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that enemies tried to stop God's people from building. Nehemiah and the Jews trusted in God. We can trust in God to save us.

(Ps. 56:3)

Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.