

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL
OCTOBER 25, 2020
NEHEMIAH (THE WALLS REBUILT)

**First, read the story summary on the next page as a family.
(From Nehemiah 1-6)**

After reading, discuss these questions:

1. Who led the people to rebuild the walls and fix the gates?
2. Why do you think it was important to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem?
3. Why do you think it mattered that the Jewish people were all working together?
4. How can you be an encouragement to someone this week?

Game:

Use building blocks (or household objects) to build a wall around an object. Next, ask your child to knock down some of the walls. You could use toys to be the enemy and knock it down. Then, help your child(ren) repair the wall.

Art Option:

Provide a pile of clean recyclable materials (cardboard boxes, egg cartons, paper towels rolls, newspaper, string, tape, so forth) for the kids and invite them to try to make something useful out of it.

Then talk about how the pile of materials may have looked like trash at first, but we were able to create some really cool things out of it! The walls of Jerusalem had been completely destroyed in some places. Many people didn't think it was possible to make the city safe again. But Nehemiah and the Jewish people worked together to rebuild the walls!

The Walls Rebuilt

Nehemiah 1-6

God's people had lived in Babylon for 70 years. Then King Cyrus, 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. Nehemiah (nee huh MIGH uh) stayed and worked for the king of Persia.

One day, some men came from Judah. Nehemiah asked, "How are God's people doing in Jerusalem?" The men had bad news: "The people are in trouble. The walls around Jerusalem are broken down, and the gates have been burned down."

Nehemiah cried. Then he prayed and fasted. The king noticed Nehemiah 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, and the gates of the city have been burned down."

The king sent Nehemiah to Jerusalem. Nehemiah inspected the walls and 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!

Not everyone was happy that Jerusalem's walls were being rebuilt. Some men who lived nearby were angry. 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 chose men to guard the walls all day and all night, but the people were discouraged. "Our enemies are everywhere," they said.

Nehemiah reminded the people that God was with them. "Don't be afraid. God is great and powerful!" So God's people went back to work. Some stood guard with weapons, and others worked on the wall.

Nehemiah was a wise and good leader for God's people while they worked. 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.