



Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall

Lesson Aim: To equip children to lead others in serving God and building up His kingdom.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Builds His Kingdom

THE WORD

Bible Story: Nehemiah 1:3-4; 4:6-20; 6:8-9, 15-16.

What He has done: God helped Nehemiah rebuild the city wall.

Key Verse: Nehemiah 6:15-16

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Ephesians 4:11-13

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?"
 "He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?
 To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:6a, 8

Unit 9: The King Who Builds His Kingdom			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	King Solomon and the Divided Kingdom, 1 Kings 11:1-13	God divided the kingdom because of King Solomon's sin.	To understand there are consequences for sin.
44	King Josiah Obeys, 2 Chronicles 34:1-3, 27, 29-31; 2 Kings 23:25	God used King Josiah to lead His people to hear and obey God's Word.	To keep God's law as a response to our relationship with Him.
45	Ezra Teaches God's People, Ezra 7:6, 9-10, 25, 27; 9:6; 10:1	God used King Artaxerxes and Ezra to spiritually rebuild His people.	To understand the transforming nature of repentance.
46	Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall, Nehemiah 1:3-4; 4:6-20; 6:8-9, 15-16	God helped Nehemiah rebuild the city wall.	To equip children to lead others in serving God and building up His kingdom.
47	Queen Esther Helps Save God's People, Esther 2:20; 4:12-16; 5:1-4; 7:3-6	God gave Queen Esther the courage and opportunity to save His people.	To understand God gives us courage to risk for what is right.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 147. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the emotional and physical strength You provide so that we can serve You by teaching the children. Inspire them to work together as the body of Christ. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Build It Up	Stackable household or classroom supplies
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Do Justly" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Search Me, O God" "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "Here I Am to Worship" "Trust and Obey" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Songs 4 Worship Kids Volume 1 Sunday School Jamz by Worship Jamz
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 67:1-3	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 46 King City Chronicles script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Nehemiah 1:3-4; 4:6-20; 6:8-9, 15-16	Bibles, Readers' Theatre scripts, costumes, props, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Ephesians 4:11-13	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—"Nehemiah's List" (Create a list of local and global team service projects.), W ³ s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Do Justly," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Build the Wall of Cookies	Cookies, frosting, plastic knives
	Up to 10	Game: Hand Wall	None
	Up to 10	Craft: Favorite Proverbs Book—Work	Sturdy paper or index cards, metal brads/fasteners or yarn, hole punch, crayons or markers, glue or glue sticks, assorted craft items (ie. jewels, glitter, and buttons), magazines
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Build the Wall Verse	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, 47 toy blocks, labels (paper strips and tape)
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Royal Corners	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible, paper, marker
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What's the best thing you have ever built?

GAME: BUILD IT UP

Purpose: To introduce the story of Nehemiah and the people rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem.

Supplies: Stackable household or classroom supplies (For example: crayon boxes, books, reams of paper, food cans or boxes, toy blocks, CD cases, plastic cups, etc.)

Teacher Tip: This is an opportunity to plan a food drive. Ask for non-perishable food donations to be delivered on the day you play this game. Use the donated cans and boxes as the building blocks for the wall. After playing the game, children can work together to sort and pack the food supplies to be donated.

Today, we will discover how God helped Nehemiah and the people in Jerusalem work together to rebuild their city wall. Let's work together to build our own wall. Instead of using stones as they did, let's see what kind of wall we can make with everyday supplies!

Directions for a small group:

1. Children take turns choosing an item from the supplies.
2. Children work together to decide the best way to fit items together to create a wall.

Directions for a large group:

1. Each child chooses one item from supplies.
2. Each child takes a turn adding his or her item to the wall.

Directions for a competitive version:

1. Form teams of three or four children.
2. Provide an equal number of supplies to each team.
3. Members of each team work together to build their own wall.
4. As a whole group, decide on a fun award title for each team's wall or ask a parent or another other teacher to "judge." Possible award titles include: Tallest Wall, Prettiest Wall, Funniest Wall, Wall with the Most Corners, First Wall Finished, etc.



The King who builds His kingdom

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting the offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



We worship the King who builds His kingdom. God's kingdom is not made of walls and buildings. His kingdom is made up of all who believe in Him. Read Psalm 67:1-3.



When we worship Him, serve Him, and point others to Him, we are helping God build His kingdom. Today, we will learn about a man who served God by rebuilding the city wall of Jerusalem. He pointed many people to God by the way he led God's people to finish the wall in just 52 days! We point others to God every time we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. Sing Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Do Justly." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on serving God.

As part of the kingdom of God, we join together to worship Him, the King over all the kings and kingdoms of the earth. We pray God will use our offering to serve others and point them to Him. Sing: "Here I Am to Worship" as the offering is collected.



Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 9, Lesson 46.



Nehemiah rebuilds the wall

THE WORD

Additional Supplies: Readers' Theater scripts, costumes, props

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned King Artaxerxes (king of Persia) sent Ezra with over 1,000 people to Jerusalem to teach God's people about God's law. Ezra led them in confessing their sins and repenting. To confess sins means to admit your wrongdoings. What does repent mean? (To turn from disobeying and to turn toward God to do things His way.)

Today, we will learn about a man named Nehemiah who was one of the captives in Babylon. He was a servant to King Artaxerxes. He asked the king to allow him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city wall. The wall went all the way around Jerusalem to keep the enemy outside the city. If a map is available, point out Ancient Babylon (modern day Iraq), and Jerusalem, Israel. If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the Got Time? segment of this lesson.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Nehemiah 1:3-4, 4:6-20; 6:8-9, 15-16. **Let's see who can Find Nehemiah 6:15-16 First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Nehemiah 6:15-16.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

READERS' THEATRE: Instead of reading our Bible passage, let's act it out. Distribute Readers' Theatre scripts to the children, assign roles, and hand out props. Read and act out Nehemiah 1:3-11; 2:2-20; 4:2-21; 6:9-16.

Optional: The Readers' Theatre script directly quotes the Bible passages above. If you choose to omit the Readers' Theater, read the Bible Story Scripture reference as follows:

Read Nehemiah 1:3-4. **Nehemiah confessed the sins of the people. He prayed for God to give him success as he went to ask King Artaxerxes (king of Persia) for permission to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city wall. Even as he spoke to the king, Nehemiah stopped to pray. The king agreed. Nehemiah went to Jerusalem and inspected the wall at night. Then he assigned the rebuilding of each section of the wall to different groups and families.** Read Nehemiah 4:6-20. **Later, the enemies threatened to tell the king that Nehemiah was leading a revolt. Let's see what happened next.** Read Nehemiah 6:8-9, 15-16.



Leading others in serving

THE WAY

Let's look at the choices Nehemiah made as he led God's people. What did he do before he asked the king for permission to return to Jerusalem? (He prayed.) He prayed again before he answered the king's question. What are the two other times he prayed during the rebuilding of the wall? (When the enemies were going to attack and when they threatened to tell the king Nehemiah was leading a revolt.) What does this show you about Nehemiah's relationship with God? (Children respond.) Why is it important for leaders to pray? (Children respond.) Why do you think it is important to pray about the work of your hands? (Children respond.)

Those who lead others in serving God will always face opposition. Nehemiah's enemies made fun of the Jews for attempting such an impossible project, but he prayed and moved forward with the rebuilding. What is the best choice for you to make if someone makes fun of you for serving God? (Children respond.) Next, the enemies threatened to attack the workers. How did Nehemiah react? (He prayed and posted guards with the workers.) What did he have the workers carry in each hand? (Building supplies in one hand and a sword or spear in the other.) What was everyone to do when they heard the trumpet sound? (Run to Nehemiah and the trumpet player so they could fight the enemy together.) The enemies threatened to lie to the king by saying Nehemiah was leading a revolt. Nehemiah prayed and continued to lead the work on the wall. What challenges do you think you would face if you led others in serving God? (Children respond.) What do you think are the most important things to do as you lead others? (Children respond.) How does this story help you pray for your spiritual leaders? (Children respond.)

How quickly was the wall completed? (52 days.) What did this show the surrounding nations? (God helped build the wall.) We help build up God's kingdom when we worship Him, serve Him, and point others to Him. How did the completion of this wall help build up God's kingdom? (It protected the city of Jerusalem from its enemies, encouraged the workers to be a part of this miracle, showed other nations it was completed with God's help, showed us how to be good leaders, etc.)

You can be like Nehemiah and work together with other families to serve God. Today, your Treasure Treat is a list of ways you can do that. If time allows, discuss the specific team service projects on "Nehemiah's List." Be sure to pray as Nehemiah did.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

God made Nehemiah a great leader. More than 400 years after Nehemiah led the people in rebuilding the wall, Paul explains how the body of Christ is built up by serving others.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Ephesians 4:11-13. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Ephesians 4:11-13.

God gave us gifts to help His people to serve. If they serve, the body of Christ will be built up until we all become one in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son. Then, we will be grown up in the faith and we will receive everything Christ has for us.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is **Nehemiah's List** (a list of local and global team service projects). **It is a list of ways you can work together with a team on a service project to help others as Nehemiah did. Talk it over with your family today.**

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. **Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible.** Distribute W³ Journal Entry #46. **Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!**

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. **For your offering, draw a picture of Nehemiah and the families of Jerusalem rebuilding the wall around the city.**

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Do Justly," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: BUILD THE WALL OF COOKIES

Purpose: Children build a wall of cookies to remind them of the rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall.

Snack Suggestion: Cookies, frosting, plastic knives

Many years before Nehemiah came to Jerusalem, the wall was broken down and the gates were burned by enemies. Jerusalem needed a huge, thick stone wall all the way around the entire city to protect them from their enemies. As the people tried to rebuild the wall, their enemies tried to stop them. God helped them work together so they could finish the wall very quickly. Let's work quickly to build our own walls with cookies.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Give each child a few cookies and a spoonful of frosting. Children spread frosting on the cookies and stack them together like bricks in a wall. Then, children may eat the wall they have built!
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"If you could build anything, what would it be?"**

GAME: HAND WALL

Purpose: This race to rebuild a wall of hands reminds children of the teamwork involved in the rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall.

Supplies: None

Nehemiah led the families of Jerusalem in rebuilding the stone wall that surrounded the city. Everyone was amazed at how quickly the wall was completed. How many days did it take to rebuild the wall? (52 days.) In this race, each team will stack their hands to build a hand wall. Then, we will race to see how quickly teams can rebuild their hand walls.

Directions:

1. Divide children into teams of 5 or more players.
2. Each team stands in a circle with their right hands stacked on top of each other in the middle of the circle.
3. Teams now stack their left hands on top of the stack of right hands.
4. On your signal, the player with his or her hand on the bottom of the stack moves that hand to the top of the stack of hands.
5. The next player with his or her hand on the bottom of the stack moves his or her right hand from the bottom to the top.
6. Continue this restacking until the hand that was on the bottom is on the bottom again.
7. The team that finishes first wins the round.
8. Play as many rounds as you like, changing the hand positions with each round (palms down, palms up, thumbs up, fist, index finger, etc.).

Teacher Tip: For groups of less than ten children, create one team and use a timer to time each round.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: FAVORITE PROVERBS BOOK—WORK

Purpose: Children add to their own book of verses from Proverbs.

Supplies: Sturdy paper or index cards, metal brads/fasteners or yarn, hole punch, crayons or markers, glue or glue sticks, assorted craft items (ie. jewels, glitter, and buttons), magazines

Prepare: For each child, print or write each of the following proverbs on a 3-inch x 5-inch sheet of paper or index card. Children will also need two blank 3-inch x 5-inch cards for a cover.

- **Proverbs 6:6** "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise."
Meaning: You people who don't want to work should think about the ant. Think about how hard it works and be wise by working hard too.
- **Proverbs 14:23** "All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty."
Meaning: All hard work pays off, but if all you do is talk, you will be poor.
- **Proverbs 31:17** "She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks."
Meaning: She gets ready to work hard. Her arms are strong enough to do her work.
- **Proverbs 10:5** "He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son."
Meaning: A wise son works when it is time to work, but a disgraceful son sleeps at work time.
- **Proverbs 31:31** "Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."
Meaning: Give her the reward for she earned it. May people praise her in public for her works.

Teacher Tip: This craft is designed to be completed in Lessons 43-47 with children bringing their books and adding new proverbs each lesson; however, each lesson's book can be created individually.

How did Nehemiah and the people finish making the wall so quickly? (They worked hard together.) **Nehemiah led the people in working hard together to rebuild the wall. Let's add five proverbs about working hard to our Favorite Proverbs books.**

Directions:

1. Give each child a 3-inch x 5-inch sheet of paper or index card for a title page.
2. Children create a title page by writing "Favorite Proverbs" in large letters.
3. Give each child a set of proverb pages.
4. **Nehemiah directed the people to rebuild the Jerusalem wall. Decorate your proverb pages with pictures of stone walls.**
5. Cut out stone shapes from gray paper or use gray beads.
6. Glue the "stones" into a wall shape on one or more of today's five proverb pages.
7. Place the proverb pages together in a stack with the title page on top. Give children an additional sheet of paper or index card for a back cover.
8. Make sure the page edges are even and punch two holes down the left side of the stack.
9. Fasten the book together with yarn or metal brads/fasteners.
10. Read and discuss the meaning of the proverbs that are being added to the Favorite Proverbs Book today.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?"
"He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:6a, 8

GAME: BUILD THE WALL VERSE

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, 47 toy blocks, labels (paper strips and tape)

Prepare: Print or write one word from the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse on individual labels or strips of paper. Stick one word on each block. Mix up the blocks. Display the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster.

Optional: To make the game more challenging, divide the class into teams. Have teams compete to see who can put the blocks in order the quickest.

Directions:

1. Say the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse together several times.
2. Place the blocks in a pile.
3. The children work together to stack the blocks in the correct order.
4. Read the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse together from the blocks.

GAME: ROYAL CORNERS

Purpose: Children play this version of "Four Corners" to learn the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible, paper, marker

Prepare: Write one of these four names each on a piece of paper: King Saul, King Solomon, King David, and Queen Esther. Post one of the four signs in each of the four corners of the play area.

Our Bible Memory Verse gives the secret to being a good king or queen. It is to worship God by acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with God. (Read Bible Memory Verse.) **Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse by playing "Royal Corners."**

Directions:

1. Choose a Caller to stand in the middle of the room to count aloud to 10 with his/her eyes closed.
2. Children rush to stand in different corners before the Caller says, "10."
3. Caller calls out one of the four corners.
4. All children in that corner recite the Bible Memory verse together as quickly as possible.
5. Choose another Caller and play again. All children remain in the game.
6. Play as long as you like or as time allows.

Optional: For a more competitive version, the children whose corner is called recite the Bible Memory verse together and then sit down. Play continues until only a few remain in the game.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Judges through Esther. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Josiah (Circa 640 B.C.) How old was Josiah when he became king? (8 years old.) **During temple repairs, his priest found and read the Book of the Law to him. What did King Josiah do when he learned he had been disobeying God without knowing it?** (He tore his robes, read the Book of the Law to the people, promised to obey, and cleared the land of the false idols.)

Ezra (500 B.C.) Why did King Artaxerxes send Ezra to Jerusalem? (To teach the people to obey God's laws. Ezra loved to study and teach God's laws.) **What did Ezra do when he saw the people were disobeying God?** (He confessed their sins to God.) **Who joined Ezra when he was crying and confessing?** (A crowd of men, women, and children. They cried with him.) **After confessing, what did Ezra lead the people to do?** (Repent: To stop disobeying and turn toward God to do things His way.)

Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.) What did Nehemiah ask King Artaxerxes? (He asked for permission to go rebuild Jerusalem's city wall.) **How did Nehemiah use the families of Jerusalem to rebuild the city wall?** (He gave each family a part of the wall to rebuild.) **What was Nehemiah's plan for defending the families against the enemy as they built the wall?** (He prayed and posted guards. He had the workers carry supplies in one hand and a weapon in the other.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Judges through Esther:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 card for Kings & Kingdoms Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Judges – Esther: Deborah (Circa 1350 B.C.) > Gideon (Circa 1250 B.C.) > Samson (Circa 1150 B.C.) > Ruth > Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) > Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.) > David (Circa 1020 B.C.) > Solomon (Circa 970 B.C.) > Josiah (Circa 640 B.C.) > Ezra (Circa 500 B.C.) > Esther (Circa 470 B.C.) > Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)

Teacher Tip: To view Bible Timeline and lessons from Genesis through Joshua, see Year One, God of Wonders Lessons 22-47.