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NEHEMIAH

LESSON 3: PERSEVERE AND PROTECT ☆

Lessons in this series: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [Overview](#)

In this lesson, the children will see how Nehemiah persevered even as obstacle after obstacle attempted to thwart his mission of rebuilding the wall.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS

Commitment, Faith, Hardship, Humility, Pleasing God, Serving, Stand-firm

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)

Build and Protect (Activity) [Click here](#)

WORSHIP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

BIBLE VERSE (7 MINUTES)

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters," Colossians 3:23 NIV

Repeat the Bible verse to the children. Have them repeat it with you two more times adding motions. This will prepare them for today's song.

Whatever You Do (Song) [Click here](#)

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

Introduction:

We have been learning about Nehemiah for a couple of weeks now. Today, we will continue our story of Nehemiah's rebuilding the walls and gates of Jerusalem to protect the Israelites from their enemy. However, several people do not like what Nehemiah is doing. They don't believe that the walls can be restored. Let's read our story and see how Nehemiah responds to his critics.

Read Nehemiah 4 (Opposition to the Rebuilding)

(Optional) Nehemiah Rebuilds (Story) [Click here](#)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do they have to fix the walls and gates? *(To protect Jerusalem from its enemies.)*
2. How does Nehemiah respond when people make fun of his plan to rebuild Jerusalem's walls and gates? *(He prays to God and then continued to build. He also reacts quickly and ensures everyone is protected.)*
3. What must all the workers hold in their hands? *(Every worker must hold a weapon in one hand and working tools or materials in the other.)*
4. Do they ever stop working on the walls and gates? *(No, they work day and night.)*
5. Have you ever worked on something that took a long time? How did you complete it? *(Allow children to respond.)*

FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

Prayer's Power of Protection (Activity) [Click here](#)

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

Obstacles and Opposition (Activity) [Click here](#)

PRAYER/SNACK (10 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

Thank God for His protection as well as His provision today's snack. Ask the children to discuss different ways in which God protects and provides for us.

CLOSING ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)

Whatever You Do (Song) [Click here](#)

NEXT WEEK

Come back next week to continue Nehemiah's story and see how long it takes him to finish repairing Jerusalem's walls and gates.

TAKE HOME PAGE

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home [PDF]. [Click here](#)

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NEHEMIAH REBUILDS ☆

In this story, Nehemiah trusts that God will grant him success in restoring Jerusalem's wall and gates. Nehemiah puts his hope and faith in God's protection and provision while persevering through obstacles.

By Kristy Thornton

For additional ideas to techniques to enhance telling a story, [click here](#)

TOPICS:

Difficulties, Endurance, Hardship, Patience, Pleasing God, Prayer, Serving, Trails

MATERIALS:

Pretend sword and hammer

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

(Use your hammer to lightly pound on the wall, pretending to repair it. Have your sword in one hand acting as if you are watching for the enemy. Stop and look at the class.)



Hello, my name is Nehemiah. I don't know if you heard of me yet. It is ok if you haven't, for I am just another one of God's servants. Have you ever worked on something so big that you wondered if you were ever going to be done? Try rebuilding this entire wall. I am here to help my people rebuild and fix their wall and gates. If we don't fix them soon, we will be an easy target for the enemy.

(Continue hammering and then pause again to address class.)

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry. He and his mean unbelieving friends were mocking us by saying things like, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are? What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!"

(Shake your head as so annoyed.)

Who asks these sorts of questions? Like a fox is really going to break down these walls. (Continue hammering for a moment.)

I am a man of God. I don't know when this wall will complete, but I do know my God and His plans are perfect. His timing is perfect. I just have to trust and obey my Lord. My aim is to please the Lord, not Sanballat or anyone else that doubts that we can rebuild these walls.

(Look over your shoulder as to be startled that an enemy might be coming. Hold your sword as if ready to fight.) The enemy is plotting to come and fight against us and stir up trouble against Jerusalem. They want to put an end to our work on the wall. So far, we have rebuilt the wall until it has reached half its height. The people are working with all their hearts. Whatever you do in life, little ones, do it as working for the Lord not for man. Work with all your hearts.

(Look as if you just had a good idea.) We must pray to God and then post a guard day and night to meet these threats. The enemy will try to attack us from every direction. We will be ready for the enemy, but we will also keep working day and night. We are God's servants and we trust that He will give us success in rebuilding the wall and gates completely.

(Look at the class intently.) I need more laborers and guards. Don't be afraid. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome. We have a lot of work still to do. We will spread out. If you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us! We will frustrate our enemies. We will trust and obey God as we rebuild the wall.

THE END

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