



# God Uses Nehemiah to Rebuild Jerusalem's Wall

*Nehemiah 1:1–4:23; 6:15–16*



## LESSON GOAL

Students will depend on God's strength to do God's will.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Explain what made Nehemiah sad.
- List times when Nehemiah depended on God.
- Describe how the people built the wall when the enemy was near.
- Analyze how God fulfilled His plan to rebuild the wall.

## KEY VERSE

“So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God” (Nehemiah 6:15–16).

## APPLICATION

- Depend on God's strength to do God's will.
- Pray continually.
- Praise God for the blessing of being used by Him.

## NEXT WEEK

God's Law Brings the Jews to Repentance  
Read Nehemiah 8–10.

### Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

# Teacher Planning Sheet

## PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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### Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

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- \_\_\_\_\_
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Three ways students need to apply this passage are

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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

### Presentation Ideas

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Praise/Music Ideas

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

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## Materials Needed

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## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children" (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

#### Introduction

The Lord's faithfulness to the Jews, the temple, and Jerusalem is astounding. In 538 B.C., the Lord moved King Cyrus to decree that the temple in Jerusalem be rebuilt. The first group of exiles returned and began building the temple. When opposition arose from the surrounding nations, the Jews stopped building between 536 and 520 B.C. Although the Jews were unfaithful, God encouraged them through His prophets Haggai and Zechariah. The temple was finally finished in 516 B.C. Nearly 60 years later, the Lord sent another group of exiles back under the leadership of Ezra (458 B.C.). Because of Ezra's faithfulness, the Lord blessed him and gave him favor with King Artaxerxes. King Artaxerxes gave an incredible sum of money for the beautification of the temple and also gave permission for Ezra to teach and enforce God's Law. Seven years later, the Lord would again use King Artaxerxes to bless the Jews (445 B.C.). This time, the Lord demonstrated His faithfulness by directing Nehemiah to rebuild the walls and gates surrounding Jerusalem. Although he faced strong opposition, Nehemiah trusted in God to finish the work that He had given him to do.

#### The Need for Rebuilding (Neh. 1)

In the twentieth year of Artaxerxes' reign (446 B.C.), Nehemiah's brother Hanani returned to Shushan, a Persian stronghold about 150 miles north of the Persian Gulf. Nehemiah was eager to find out about the situation in Jerusalem. When Nehemiah asked about the exiles who had left captivity to return to Jerusalem, Hanani told him that they were suffering "great distress and reproach" and that the "wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates burned with fire" (Neh. 1:3). Without walls, Jerusalem was an object of derision to the surrounding peoples. When Nehemiah heard the news, he "sat down and wept, and mourned for many days" (1:4). Nehemiah was horrified to think of the city that represented the one true God in its present condition. The city's weakness did not reflect God's strength. God could defend Jerusalem with or without walls, but the absence of walls suggested to the surrounding nations that God had rejected His people.

Nehemiah not only wept, but also fasted and prayed (Neh. 1:4). He began his prayer by praising God for keeping His covenant with those who love Him and keep His commandments (1:5). Nehemiah then confessed that Israel (including himself and his family) was guilty of breaking God's commandments (1:6–7). He next asked God to fulfill His promise, made through Moses, to return the exiled Jews to Israel when they repented (1:8–9). Because God had chosen Israel for Himself, had redeemed Israel with His power, and had made Jerusalem the dwelling of His name, Nehemiah requested that God hear his prayer and "grant him mercy in the sight of this man" (1:10–11). After recording his prayer,

Nehemiah finished with a note to the reader: "For I was the king's cupbearer" (1:11). Nehemiah's prayer of praise, confession, and claiming God's promises ended with Nehemiah asking that God would bless him before King Artaxerxes.

### **The Plan for Rebuilding (Neh. 2)**

Four months after hearing of the situation in Israel, Nehemiah finally brought his request before the king. As the king's cupbearer, Nehemiah had the important job of tasting the king's wine to ensure that it was not poisoned. Normally, Nehemiah was happy in the king's presence. (The king expected happiness from his subjects when they were in his court.) But this day, Nehemiah let his concerns over the situation in Israel dictate his expression (Neh. 2:1–2). The king noticed his sad face and asked the reason for his "sorrow of heart." Nehemiah was "dreadfully afraid" (2:2), having already risked much by his sad expression and being about to risk even more. He told Artaxerxes he was sad because "the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire" (2:3). When the king asked what Nehemiah's request was, Nehemiah "prayed to the God of heaven" before answering (2:4). Nehemiah begged for God's wisdom and blessing before asking the king for permission to rebuild Jerusalem (2:5). The king granted Nehemiah's request (2:6), giving him letters that guaranteed his protection along the way and lumber for the gates, wall, and his house (2:7–8). Nehemiah gave God all the glory for the king's answer, attributing his success to the presence of "the good hand of my God upon me."

God protected Nehemiah during the three- to four-month journey to Jerusalem. Because of the king's letters, Nehemiah had been given an armed escort for the journey. Both letters and guard were necessary since two officials, Sanballat the Horonite (who served as the governor of Samaria) and Tobiah the Ammonite (who perhaps governed in Ammon) "were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the wellbeing of the children of Israel" (Neh. 2:9–10). Although they hated the Jews and Jerusalem, because of the king's letters, the officials would not overtly attack Nehemiah.

After arriving in Jerusalem, Nehemiah planned wisely for the rebuilding of the wall. Knowing that God had put it in his heart to rebuild the wall (Neh. 2:12) didn't justify his being rash. Perhaps in order to prevent opposition before building began, Nehemiah kept secret his intentions by surveying the wall at night (2:12–15). After his reconnaissance, Nehemiah called the people to rebuild the wall in order to escape distress and reproach (2:17). To encourage the people, Nehemiah explained how God's hand had already blessed him and how he had the king's support (2:18). The people were convinced and began rebuilding.

Opposition to the project grew quickly. As soon as Sanballat and Tobiah heard of the rebuilding, they mocked the Jews and accused them of rebelling against the king (Neh. 2:19). Nehemiah responded to their taunts by saying, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build" (2:20). Nehemiah needed no help from false worshipers of God. The Lord had blessed his plan so far, and he was confident that He would enable the Jews to rebuild the wall.

### **The Opposition to Rebuilding (Neh. 4)**

After recording which family worked on each section of the wall (Neh. 3), Nehemiah continued his description of the opposition to the rebuilding. Unable to attack the Jews physically because of Artaxerxes' protection, Sanballat and Tobias reverted to psychological warfare. To intimidate the Jews, Sanballat mocked them in front of his Samaritan army (Neh. 4:2). He ridiculed their strength as a nation ("these feeble Jews"), the wisdom of the project ("Will they fortify them-

selves?"), their trust in God ("Will they offer sacrifices?"), and their ability to finish ("Will they complete in a day?"). He even ridiculed the usefulness of the stones (4:2)! Tobiah's attacks were equally brutal. He suggested that the wall would be so fragile that even a fox would crumble it (4:3). Nehemiah responded to their ridicule by turning to God in prayer (4:4–5). He prayed that God would judge Sanballat and Tobiah for their sin. Nehemiah passionately desired that God would be glorified, but Sanballat and Tobiah were publicly attacking God's ability to protect and strengthen His people. Despite the opposition, the Jews built the wall up to half its height (4:6).

The surrounding nations became angrier as "the gaps were beginning to be closed" (Neh. 4:7). The Samaritans to the north, the Arabs to the south, the Ammonites to the east, and the Ashdodites to the west "conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion" (4:8). The verbal threats were nearing physical reality. As with the previous threats, Nehemiah responded by turning to God in prayer. But he also responded by setting a "watch against them day and night" (4:9). Throughout Nehemiah's leadership in Jerusalem, he trusted God completely and took a wise course of action. Although Nehemiah remained steadfast, those building the walls began to doubt that the project could be finished. The builders complained that they did not have enough strength to finish (Neh. 4:10), the opponents threatened a surprise attack (4:11), and the Jews in the country surrounding Jerusalem warned of certain doom (4:12). To counter the low morale and pressing danger, Nehemiah wisely set guards where the wall was lowest and armed them with swords, spears, and bows (4:13). Nehemiah challenged the people: "Fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses" (4:14). But Israel's hope was in neither their wall nor their weapons. Nehemiah encouraged the people to look to and "remember the LORD, great and awesome" (4:14). He consistently admonished the people, both in his prayers to the Lord and in his direct exhortations, to trust the Lord for deliverance. When Israel's enemies realized that the Jews were ready for an attack, they realized that it was God who "had brought their plot to nothing" (Neh. 4:15). Even though the immediate danger had passed and the people could return to work, Nehemiah guarded against future problems. Half of his servants returned to construction, but the other half continued to guard in full armor (4:16). The people were also prepared for future conflicts. Those who hauled away rubble kept one hand on a weapon, and those who constructed the wall kept their swords at their sides (4:17–18). Because the people were spread out around the length of the city wall (4:19), Nehemiah planned for a trumpet to sound to rally the people to the point of attack (4:18–20). While armed men guarded the walls from daybreak until night (4:21), Nehemiah arranged for those who came into the city each day from the countryside to stay in Jerusalem and strengthen the city at night (4:22). The men, including Nehemiah and the leadership, were so vigilant that they even slept in their clothes (4:23). While planning for an attack, Nehemiah never trusted in the people's strength or his guards to defeat the enemy. Nehemiah told the people, "Our God will fight for us" (4:20). Nehemiah's confidence was continually in the Lord.

### **The Result of Rebuilding (Neh. 6:15–16)**

The Lord protected His people, and the rebuilding of the wall was a success. The massive undertaking took only 52 days (Neh. 6:15), a fact that was even more significant in light of the conditions under which the Jews had to work (Neh. 4). Although the Lord used a multitude of families who had been organized under the wise leadership of Nehemiah (Neh. 3), it was clear to the surrounding nations that the successful rebuilding of the wall could not be attributed to either the leader or the workers. Nehemiah said, "When all our enemies heard of it, and all the

nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God" (Neh. 6:16). Both people and leader had worked faithfully to accomplish God's will, but it was God who had strengthened their endeavors. In the end, He alone was glorified in the rebuilding of the wall.

### Conclusion

Nehemiah and the Jews were committed to doing God's will. In the pursuit of pleasing and glorifying God, Nehemiah wept, fasted, prayed, put his job and life on the line, journeyed 700 miles, planned for the construction, encouraged the people, and led a defense of the wall. From beginning to end, Nehemiah trusted in and glorified the Lord (Neh. 1:11; 2:4, 8, 18, 20; 4:4, 14, 15, 20; 6:16). Because the Lord had revealed to him His will, Nehemiah worked with all his might and trusted in the Lord with all his heart. Believers today must work with all their strength to obey God's will while depending on Him for strength to obey (Eph. 1:19; 3:20; 6:10; Col. 1:11). Those who do not have the Lord are incapable of pleasing Him in their own strength. They must repent of their failure to obey, trust in the sacrifice of Christ, and rely on Him for strength to obey.

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

*Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.*

How did the king find a new queen?

*The king had beautiful unmarried women from around his empire brought to him, and the one who pleased him the most would be queen instead of Vashti.*

Who was chosen as the new queen?

*A beautiful Jewish woman named Esther was chosen as the new queen.*

What did Mordecai overhear while sitting at the king's gate?

*He overheard two palace guards planning to kill King Ahasuerus.*

Who became the king's assistant?

*A man named Haman.*

What did Haman do when he discovered that Mordecai would not bow down?

*Haman became very angry, and he wanted to destroy all the Jews throughout the whole kingdom.*

What was Haman's plan to kill the Jews?

*Haman told the king that the Jews disobeyed the king's laws. He asked permission to put them all to death.*

What did Mordecai ask Esther to do?

*Mordecai asked Esther to go into the presence of the king and ask him to save her people.*

What did the king do when he found out what Haman had done?

*The king was very angry and had Haman put to death.*

Were the Jews saved from being killed?

*Yes, the Jews were safe because the king protected them. God put Esther and Mordecai exactly where He wanted them so that they could be used to save His people.*



### The Cupbearer

Bring in a plate full of apple chunks, with a few potato chunks mixed in. Divide the class in half, and designate one half as “kings” and the other half as “cupbearers.” Explain that one main duty of a cupbearer was to be the king’s food taster, ensuring that no one was trying to poison the king. Have each cupbearer pair up with a king and choose a chunk from the plate to taste. If the cupbearer chooses an apple chunk, he “lives,” and the food is safe for the king. If he chooses a potato chunk, he is poisoned, and the food is not safe for the king. Have each cupbearer inform his king of whether his food is safe to eat. Ask the cupbearers whether they like their job. It is an important one, but one that can prove fatal!



### Important Jobs

Create a list of famous people in history and ask the students what each person’s job was. Nehemiah had a very important job. In today’s lesson we will find out why his job was so important.



### Praying Continually

Communication is an important part of all relationships, including our relationship with God, and talking is an important part of communication. Select several students to represent various Bible characters. They should try to “tell” the class who they are without talking. Prayer is talking to God. Ask the students how often they talk to God. How often should we talk to God? We are to pray continually (1 Thess. 5:17)! That means that we are never finished speaking to God; we just get interrupted at times throughout the day. Our prayer life says a lot about how much we depend on God and how much we value Him. Commit to praying more regularly for your students so that they will have continual prayer modeled for them.



### Why the Wall?

Show the students pictures of a police officer, a firefighter, or a soldier. (You also could bring in a uniform, if you have access to one.) Officers wear uniforms for protection (bulletproof vests, fire-retardant coats, etc.) and identification (showing other people whom/what they represent). A uniform must look nice and well-kept because the person wearing it represents something or someone. Rebuilding Jerusalem’s walls was important for similar reasons. First, the walls were important for the city’s protection. Rebuilding the walls was the first step toward restoring the city as a whole. Second, the walls were an important symbol of the state of the city. Rebuilding the walls told the surrounding nations that Israel was reestablishing itself as God’s representative in the land.



### Only 52 Days

Divide the class into teams of 3–4 students. Give each team a pile of interlocking building blocks, and tell them to build a wall as best they can in only 52 seconds. Today they will hear about how the Jews built a wall in only 52 days. God blessed their hard work because they depended on Him.

### Building the Wall

Tape a long, horizontal piece of butcher paper on the wall at waist level. Have the students choose partners and work together to draw on their sections of the wall. They could draw blocks, gates, and archways. The teams on the ends could draw watchtowers.

Variation: Have the students build a wall with blocks, using only one hand. Tell them that the builders in today's story have to work with one hand because they are holding something in the other hand. What was it? Why were they holding it?

## PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

### Bible Lesson

#### Reading of the Text

Read Nehemiah 1–4; 6:15–16.

#### Introduction

A long time before Nehemiah, God had judged the kingdoms of Israel and Judah because they had sinned by worshiping and serving idols instead of Him. When Judah was conquered by King Nebuchadnezzar, the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, the walls of Jerusalem were destroyed, many people were killed, and many others were taken away to Babylon. There were very few Israelites left living in Israel; many were in exile. During the time of Nehemiah, some Jews had moved back to Israel and the temple in Jerusalem had been rebuilt, but things still were very bad in the city. When Nehemiah heard about how bad things were, he decided to do something about it. God provided an opportunity for Nehemiah to share with the king his desire to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. God moved the heart of the king to agree to Nehemiah's request. When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, it was clear that not everyone wanted him to succeed. There were many people who were against Nehemiah as he tried to do what God wanted: to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.





### Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

**LOQ:** Nehemiah had a brother named Hanani who had just come back from Jerusalem. How did Hanani describe what it was like in Jerusalem? (Name four things.)

**Answer:** When Nehemiah met with Hanani, he asked him what things were like in Jerusalem. Hanani's answer is in verse 3:

1. The people were in great distress.
2. The people were in great reproach (being criticized and laughed at by others; the opposite of praise).
3. The wall of Jerusalem was broken down.
4. The gates of Jerusalem were burned with fire.

**LOQ:** What did Nehemiah do when he heard Hanani's answer?

**Answer:** Nehemiah sat down and wept and mourned (was very sad) for days. He also fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. To Nehemiah, Jerusalem was a special city. It had been the capital of Israel and was the place where the temple was located. Nehemiah wanted Jerusalem's walls to be built and to be a good symbol of God's greatness.

**LOQ:** Who was Nehemiah praying for?

**Answer:** Verse 6 says that Nehemiah was praying "on behalf of the sons of Israel."

**LOQ:** (Read 1:11–2:4.) What did Nehemiah say about the Israelites in verses 6 and 7? Did he include himself?

**Answer:** Nehemiah confessed that the Israelites had sinned against the Lord. They had not kept the commandments of the Lord as they had been commanded through Moses. Nehemiah also said that he and his father's house had sinned against God. In verses 8 and 9, Nehemiah repeated what God had commanded to Moses: if the people were disobedient, God would scatter them; but if they were obedient, He would gather them together "to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell," that is, Jerusalem. The reason the Israelites were not in Israel was because they had disobeyed God. Nehemiah was asking God to regather to Jerusalem those who were obedient to Him.

**LOQ:** What did Nehemiah mean when he prayed in 1:11 for God to "grant [him] compassion before this man"? (Hint: Whom might Nehemiah have been afraid of?)

**Answer:** Nehemiah wanted to ask the king for help for Jerusalem because the king was very powerful. He could even have anyone killed whom he was not happy with. Nehemiah was afraid that he would upset the king. Nehemiah asked God for the king to be kind to him when he asked him for help.

**LOQ:** What was Nehemiah's job?

**Answer:** Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the king. That meant that before the king drank wine or ate food, Nehemiah would taste it first to make sure that it was safe. If Nehemiah did not get sick or die, then the king would eat the food. Being a cupbearer was one of the most important jobs in the entire kingdom. We can be very certain that King Artaxerxes trusted Nehemiah.

**LOQ:** What did the king notice about Nehemiah?

**Answer:** He noticed that Nehemiah was sad and asked him what was wrong.

**LOQ:** What did the king say after Nehemiah told him why he was sad?

**Answer:** The king asked Nehemiah, "What would you request?" (2:4). He was willing to help Nehemiah do something to make the situation in Jerusalem better. In all the kingdom, the king could do anything he wished. He was the most powerful man around. God not only caused the king to be kind to Nehemiah, but He also caused the king's heart to be willing to do whatever Nehemiah asked.

**LOQ:** How do we know that God was helping Nehemiah?

**Answer:** The end of verse 8 says, "And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was upon me." The king, the most powerful man in the kingdom, gave Nehemiah what he wanted. God surely was taking care of him.

**LOQ:** Who were the people who were against Nehemiah?

**Answer:** In Nehemiah 4:1–3, two of the enemies of Nehemiah and the Jews were Sanballat (4:1) and Tobiah the Ammonite (4:3).

**LOQ:** When Nehemiah's enemies heard that the wall of Jerusalem was being rebuilt, what did they do?

**Answer:** When Sanballat heard that the Jews were rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem, he became furious and mocked them (4:1) by asking some questions.

**LOQ:** What were those questions?

**Answer:** The five questions that Sanballat asked are (4:2):

1. What are these feeble Jews doing?
2. Are they going to restore it [the wall] for themselves?
3. Can they offer sacrifices?
4. Can they finish in a day?
5. Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble, even the burned ones?

Each of these questions was asked in order to make fun of the Jews' rebuilding of the wall. Sanballat did not want the Jews to succeed. Another one of Nehemiah's enemies, Tobiah, mocked him, too.

**LOQ:** What did Tobiah say?

**Answer:** Tobiah said, "Even what they are building—if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!" (4:3). Tobiah was saying that the wall would be so weak that even a fox, which is a small, light animal, would break it down by jumping on it.

**LOQ:** How did Nehemiah respond?

**Answer:** When Nehemiah heard the mocking, he turned to God and called out to Him for help (4:4). Nehemiah asked God to return evil to Sanballat and Tobiah for the evil that they wished upon Israel (4:4–5).

**LOQ:** How did the people who were building the wall with Nehemiah respond?

**Answer:** The people continued building the wall so that the whole wall was joined together to half its height. They did not stop because of their enemies but persevered because they had "a mind to work" (4:6).

**LOQ:** From Nehemiah 4:7, who else was against rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem?

**Answer:** Not only were Sanballat and Tobiah against the rebuilding of the wall, but the Arabs, the Ammonites, and Ashdodites were also. They were all very angry.

**LOQ:** Why were these people angry?

**Answer:** These people were angry because they saw that the places in the wall that had been open (the "breaches") were being repaired.

**LOQ:** What did these enemies decide to do to stop the wall from being rebuilt?

**Answer:** The enemies planned to join together and fight against Jerusalem to try and stop the Jews from rebuilding the wall (4:8).

**LOQ:** What was the first thing that Nehemiah did in response?

**Answer:** Just as Nehemiah had prayed to God when he first heard about Jerusalem, when Sanballat, Tobiah and the others mocked the work on the wall, Nehemiah again prayed to God for help (4:9). Nehemiah knew that he and the people needed help from God in order to be successful in rebuilding the wall.

**LOQ:** What reason did Nehemiah give to the people to encourage them to keep building?

**Answer:** Nehemiah spoke to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, encouraging them not to be afraid of their enemies since the "great and awesome" God was on their side (4:14).

**LOQ:** What does Nehemiah 4:15 tell us about how God helped Nehemiah and the people against their enemies?

**Answer:** "God had frustrated [the enemies'] plan" to attack Jerusalem. Nehemiah believed that God had worked so that the plan became known. And since the plan had become known, the Jews were able to prepare themselves to fight to protect themselves and Jerusalem.

**LOQ:** How long did it take to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem?

**Answer:** The wall was completed 52 days after the rebuilding started (6:15).

**LOQ:** What happened when the enemies of Nehemiah heard that Israel had been successful?

**Answer:** When the enemies of Nehemiah heard that the wall had been rebuilt, they lost their confidence (6:16).

**LOQ:** How had the builders been able to finish the wall?

**Answer:** The builders were able to finish the wall because the "work had been accomplished with the help of our God" (6:16). The Jews had not done it by themselves; God had helped them.

**LOQ:** What did the Nehemiah's enemies realize as they watched how quickly the wall was built?

**Answer:** They recognized that this work had been accomplished with God's help (6:16).

### Summary

Nehemiah and the builders of the wall had many enemies. Their enemies did not want the wall of Jerusalem to be built. They made fun of the work. They planned and threatened to attack the people, causing them trouble and even killing them. They also tried to hurt Nehemiah and make him sin. But each time the enemies opposed the rebuilding of the wall, Nehemiah was able to make wise decisions

and encourage the people. But Nehemiah didn't do it alone. Neither did the people rebuild the wall alone. God was helping them. It was God's will to rebuild the wall. He made sure that Nehemiah made the right decisions, and that the people did not become so discouraged that they quit. Everyone in the land "recognized that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God."

### Application

Nehemiah had a job to do for God. God had put it into his heart to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall of the city. We learned that it was not easy for Nehemiah and the people to succeed, but they did. They succeeded because God's strength was behind their work. They trusted in God, and God helped and protected them. Christians are in a situation similar to Nehemiah's. Nehemiah had a desire to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. As Nehemiah and the people trusted in God for His help, Christians are to trust in Him to work in and through their lives. Believers should depend on God for strength to do His will. Through prayer in every situation and through reading God's Word, the believer can know what God desires of him.

## Presentation Ideas



### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



### Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



### Object Lessons

As you teach, pull various items from a pillowcase. Items could include a glove, a hammer, a flashlight, praying hands, a knife, a rock, a smiley face, etc. Ask the students whether they think Nehemiah and the Israelites slept on soft pillows with pillowcases, or had clean pajamas to wear at night. No; they slept in their clothes on the hard ground by the wall, to protect Jerusalem from enemies.



### Night Reconnaissance

(This could be used in conjunction with the wall crafts made during the Point time.) Lead the students in pretending, like Nehemiah, to walk around Jerusalem's wall at night, inspecting the damage. Allow various students to lead, carrying a flashlight. Ask the students, "Is the wall burned and black? Is it broken down? Are the stones broken? What would it take to rebuild the wall?" Use rulers and measuring tapes to measure the stones that need replacing. How many people and how long would it take to clear away the rubble?

## Praise and Worship

*Give Me Oil in My Lamp*

*God Is So Good*

*I Will Call upon the Lord*

*Make Me a Servant*

*Praise Him, All Ye Little Children*

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

*Thou Art Worthy  
What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).*

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### "Building Jerusalem's Wall"

Materials: copies of the "Building Jerusalem's Wall" craft pages, glue, scissors, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft pages. Direct the students to finish building Jerusalem's wall by cutting out the bricks containing words from the key verse and setting them on the wall in the correct order. After all the words are situated correctly, the students can glue them to the page.



### "Before, During, After"

Materials: copies of the "Before, During, After" craft page, scissors, brads, crayons

Directions: Before class, make a copy of the craft page for each student. To prepare the pages, use a razor to cut along the arch and cut out the three rectangles. During class, have the students cut out the strip with words and use a brad to attach it to the back of the arch. Pull the top part of the strip through the slit. When the students move the strip along the arch, they will see the words "before," "during," and "after" appear in the rectangles. Have the students color the sun, moon, and stars.



### Wall Relay

Place an equal number of cardboard bricks in two garbage cans. Divide the students into two teams, and have them line up on one end of the room, behind the garbage cans. When you say "go," the first student from each team should take a brick from his team's garbage can, run to the other end of the room, set the brick down, and return to his line. Then the next student goes. The first team to use all their bricks to build a "wall" wins.



### Dependence

To be dependent on something is to need it very much. Sometimes we are aware of our dependence on something (for instance, a person who is dependent on glasses to see). Other times, however, we are completely oblivious to how much we need something (for instance, the air we breathe, which keeps us alive though we rarely are aware of it). Ask the students to hold their breath to see how well they can get along without air. We are even more dependent on God than we are on air. We could not live for one second without God's sustaining power (Col. 1:16–17). God wants us to consciously depend on Him. This means that we must rely on Him for strength, pray to Him, and read His Word for guidance. Nehemiah is a good example of dependence on God. Ask the students how Nehemiah showed his dependence on God.



### **"God Uses Nehemiah to Rebuild the Wall"**

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



2  
3

### **Journal Page: "God Alone Deserves Glory"**

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

### **Coloring Sheets**

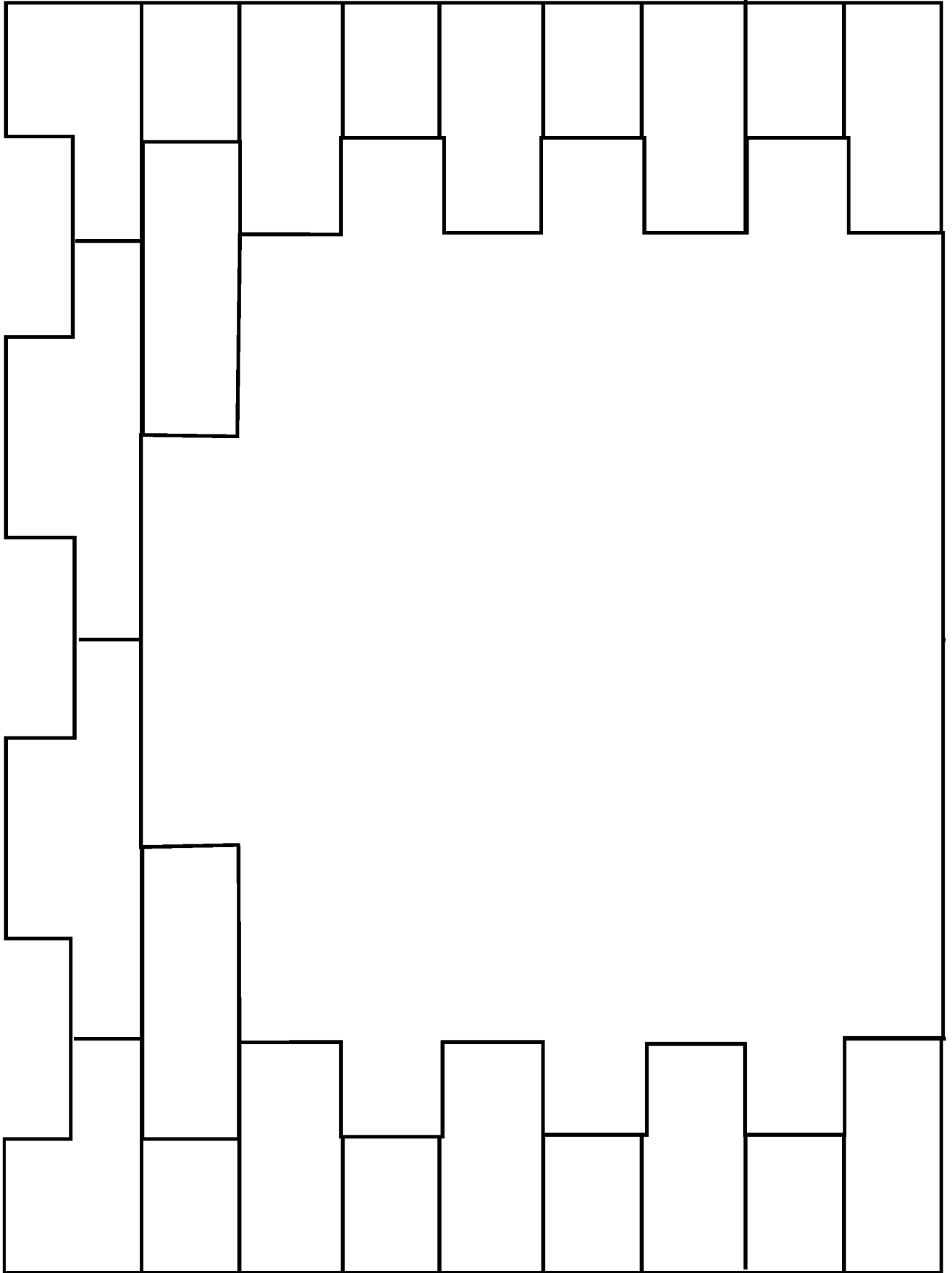
Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



### **MEMORY VERSE**

"The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold" (Psalm 18:2).

# Building Jerusalem's Wall







# Building Jerusalem's Wall

twenty-fifth day of Elul,

—Nehemiah 6:15–16

And it happened, when all

our God."

heard of it,

for they

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our enemies

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disheartened

"So the wall

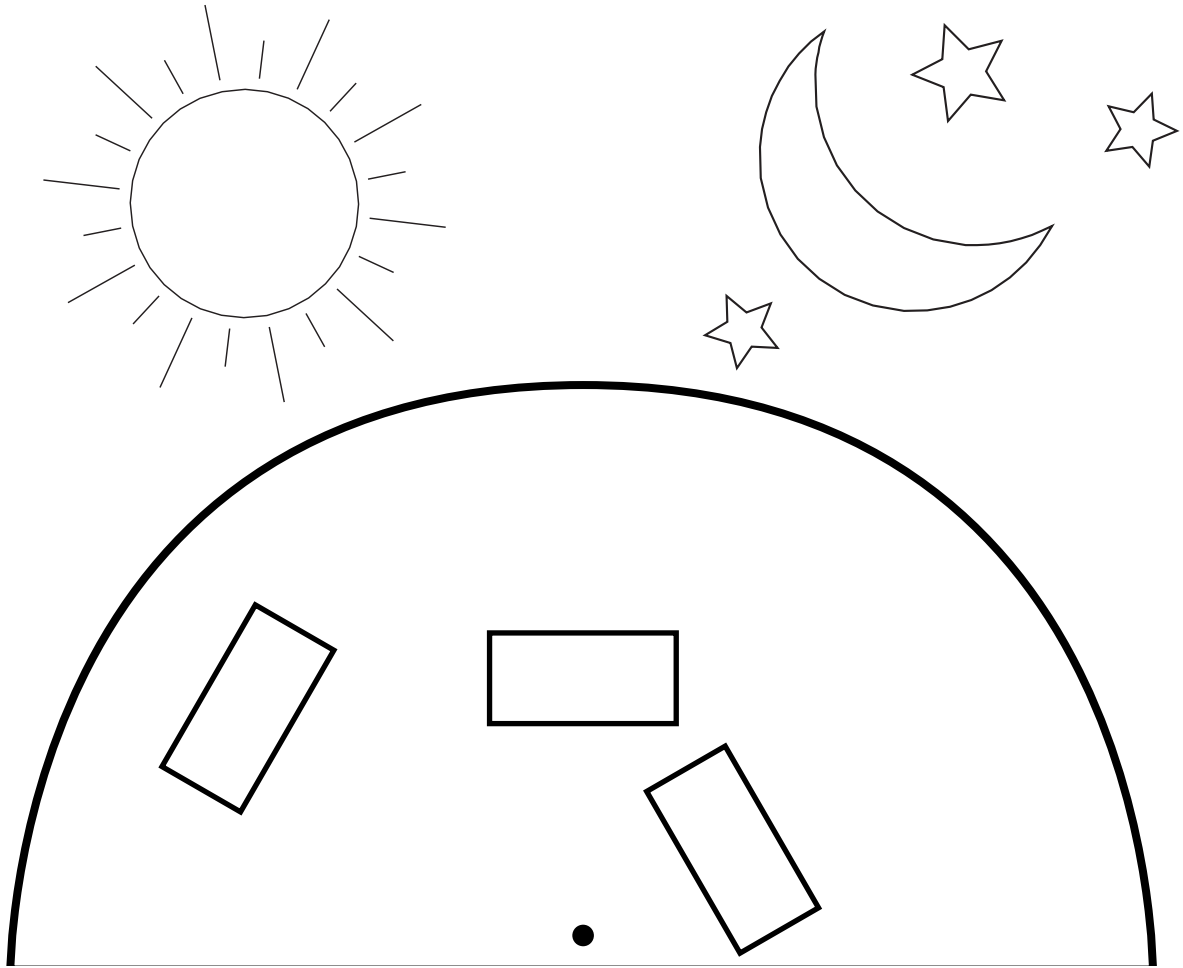
in their own eyes;

was finished on the



# Before, During, After

Just like Nehemiah, when we face a trial, we should...



**Pray**

**Before**

**During**

**After**





# God

Uses **Nehemiah**  
to *Rebuild the Wall*



**Nehemiah**  
**1:1-4:23**  
**6:15-16**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. What did Nehemiah want to rebuild? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Nehemiah do before asking the king's permission? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who protected Nehemiah on his journey to Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_
4. The surrounding nations were angry because Nehemiah and the Jews were trusting \_\_\_\_\_ during the rebuilding.
5. Israel's enemies were set to attack, but God brought their plot to \_\_\_\_\_ (4:15).
6. How many servants were needed as guards while the building continued?  
37                      one half  
one quarter              two
7. The rebuilding of the wall was successful because the people \_\_\_\_\_ God.



# God Alone Deserves Glory

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“So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God” (Nehemiah 6:15–16).

Do you know that there are people who do not want God to be glorified? They disregard His word and try to get others to do the same. In Nehemiah’s time it was no different. God’s enemies tried to stop the Israelites from doing God’s will by insulting and threatening them as they were rebuilding Jerusalem’s wall. When the Israelites became discouraged and fearful, Nehemiah encouraged them to (unscramble the following words):

**YRPA** to God (4:4–5, 9; 6:9)

---

**RTTSU** in God (4:14, 20)

---

Continue to **ROWK** for God’s glory

---

Although the Israelites faced strong opposition, Nehemiah knew that God would help them complete the job that He had called them to do. The Israelites prayed, trusted, and continued to work, and God enabled them to finish the wall in an amazing 52 days (6:15)! God alone deserved the glory!

# God Alone Deserves Glory

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Today, there are still people who do not want God to be glorified and who try to discourage Christians from living godly lives. Christ told us they would. He said, "Remember the word I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you'" (John 15:20). But be encouraged if you are a Christian because His mighty power works in you to help you do His will (Eph. 1:18-23). Just pray, trust, and continue to work for His glory.

This week I will pray while I

---

And I will trust God when

---

And I will continue to do His will by

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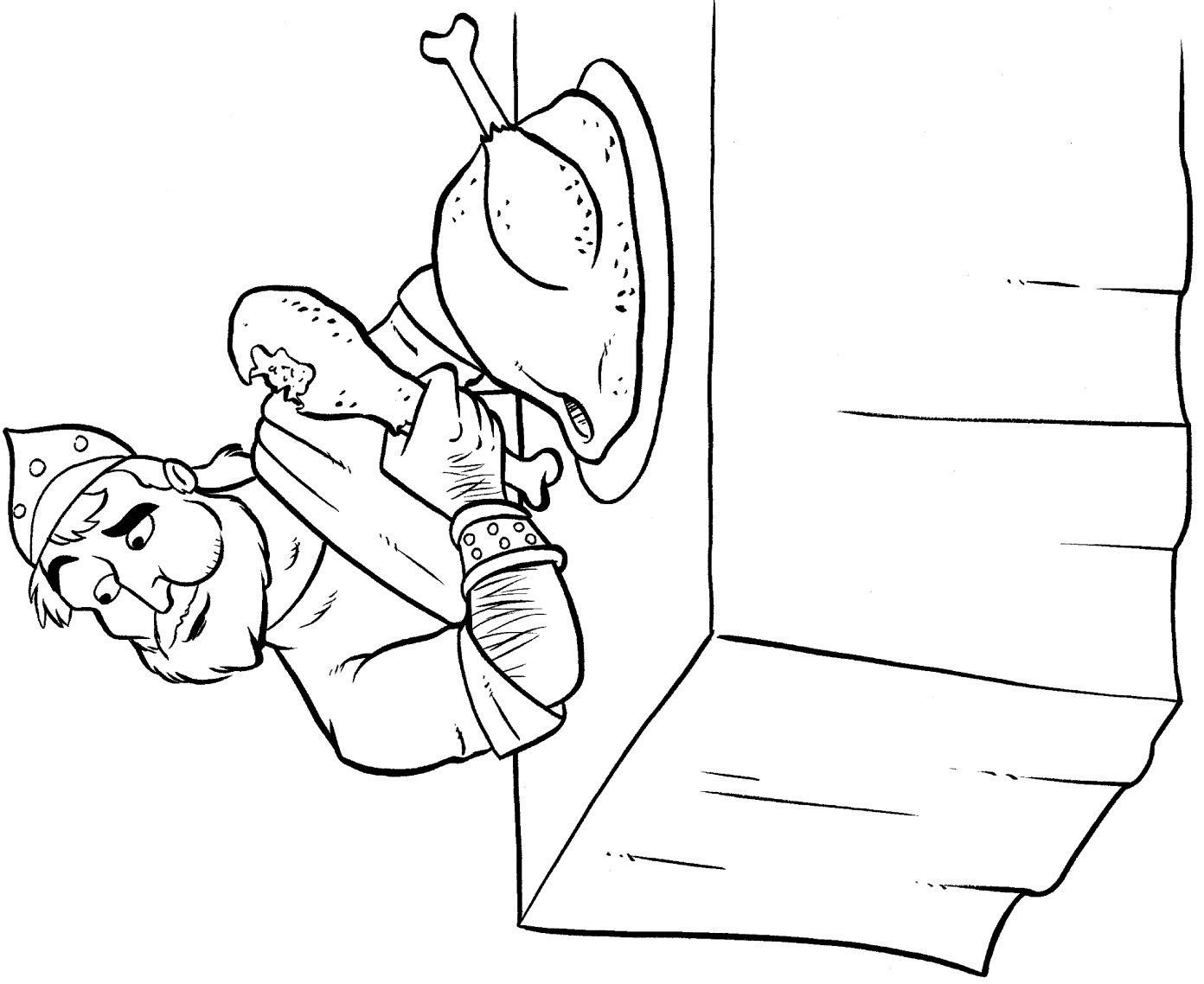
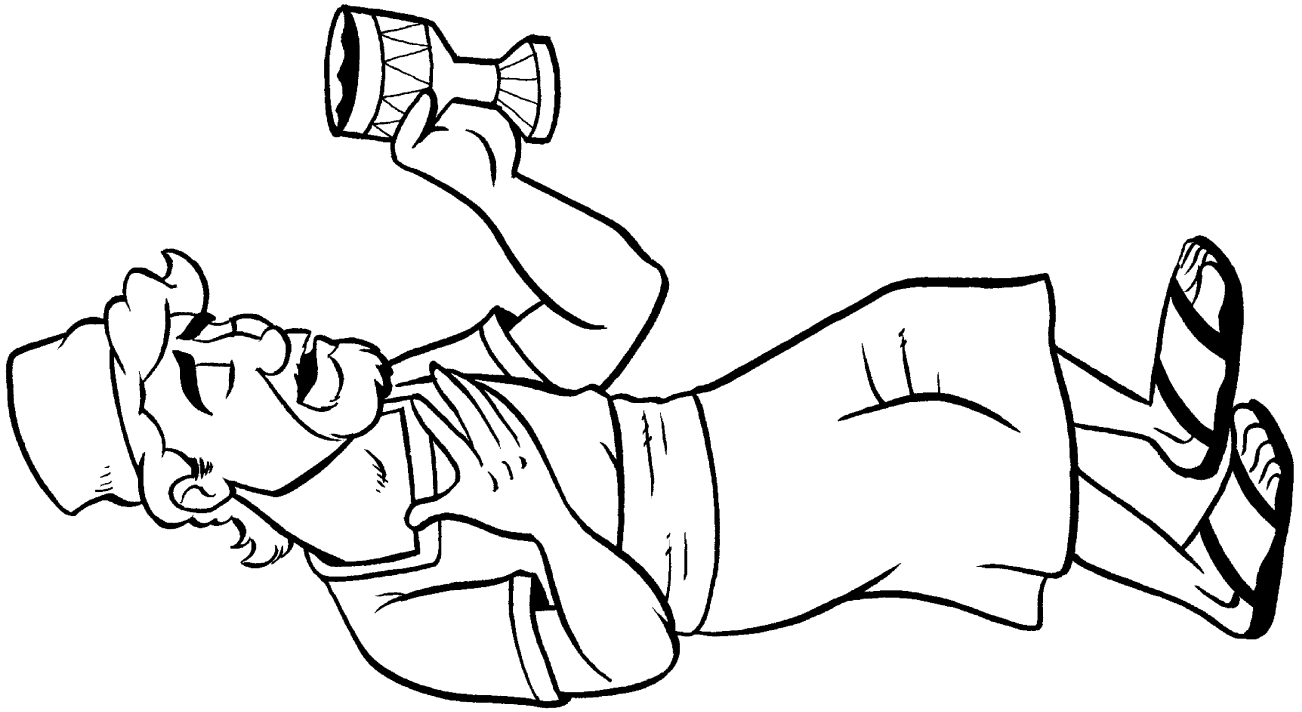
**PRAYER**

Pray to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might, and pray that other Christians will be, too. (See Eph. 3:16-21.)

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**Nehemiah asked the king for permission to rebuild Jerusalem's wall (Neh. 2:5).**





**Nehemiah and the Jews were prepared to defend the people as they rebuilt Jerusalem's wall (Neh. 4:7-18).**

