

THE STORY OF NEHEMIAH

A Summary of Nehemiah 2-8

Nehemiah was a Jew who worshiped God. His family had been taken to Babylon as slaves. Later, Persia had defeated the Babylonians. When Nehemiah was grown, he became cupbearer for the king of Persia.

One day, as Nehemiah served wine to the king, he asked, "Nehemiah, why do you look so sad?"

"How can I be happy when I know that the city of my people lies in ruins? The walls are broken down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

"What do you want?" asked the king.

"If it please your majesty," said Nehemiah, "send me to Jerusalem to rebuild the city."

"All right," said the king, "you may go. Take men with you to help and soldiers to protect you. I will give you a letter to the keeper of my forests so you can take wood to build houses."

Nehemiah and his workers and the soldiers went to Jerusalem. While they worked rebuilding the walls, enemies came to make fun of them.

"What are these silly Jews doing? If a fox walks on that wall, it will fall down!" said the enemies.

The enemies gathered an army

together and came to kill the workers and knock down the walls.

"Don't be afraid," said Nehemiah. "God will fight for us!"

The builders worked very hard. They had to be ready to fight their enemies while they worked. Half of them stood guard and half worked on the walls. The walls were finished quickly, and the gates put in place. The city of Jerusalem was safe!

When the enemies heard the walls were finished they gave up and went home. They understood that the work had been completed with the help of God.

Nehemiah gathered the Jews together for a big celebration. Ezra, the priest, stood up and read the Word of God from early morning until noon. Then other priests read until the sun went down. The people listened to the Word of God all day long.

Nehemiah said, "This is a day to be happy! God is pleased we have finished rebuilding the walls. Let us obey God and He will bless us and be on our side."

"The joy of the Lord will make you strong" (Nehemiah 8:10, ICB).

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) Why was Nehemiah so sad?
5		2.) What did Nehemiah want to do?
5		3.) Why did Nehemiah have half of the builders stand guard?
5		4.) Why did the people celebrate?

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>“But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2 Thessalonians 3:3</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

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Nehemiah helps rebuild the wall around Jerusalem

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Nehemiah 2-8

CRAFT/ACTIVITY: MARSHMALLOW WALLS

Using marshmallows as stones, and peanut butter as mortar, have students build walls to help them remember that Nehemiah helped rebuild the wall around Jerusalem.

MATERIALS

1. Marshmallows
2. Cake Frosting
3. Plastic knives or Popsicle sticks
4. 5 oz. disposable cups
5. Small paper plates



DIRECTIONS

1. Pass out a small handful of mini marshmallows to each student.
2. Pass out a small paper plate to build the “walls” on.
3. Place small amounts of cake frosting in 5 oz. disposable cups. (Students may share a cup of frosting with a partner or small group)
4. Distribute a plastic knife or Popsicle stick to each student to use when spreading the mortar (frosting) on the bricks (marshmallows).
5. Demonstrate how to smear a small amount of frosting on the marshmallows and stick them together to build walls.

FOR DISCUSSION

As students are building their walls, remind them that Nehemiah had a heart for Jerusalem. He was passionate about rebuilding the wall to help protect the people. Help students realize that when the Lord is with them, nothing is impossible.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

Approximately 15 minutes

MEMORY VERSE

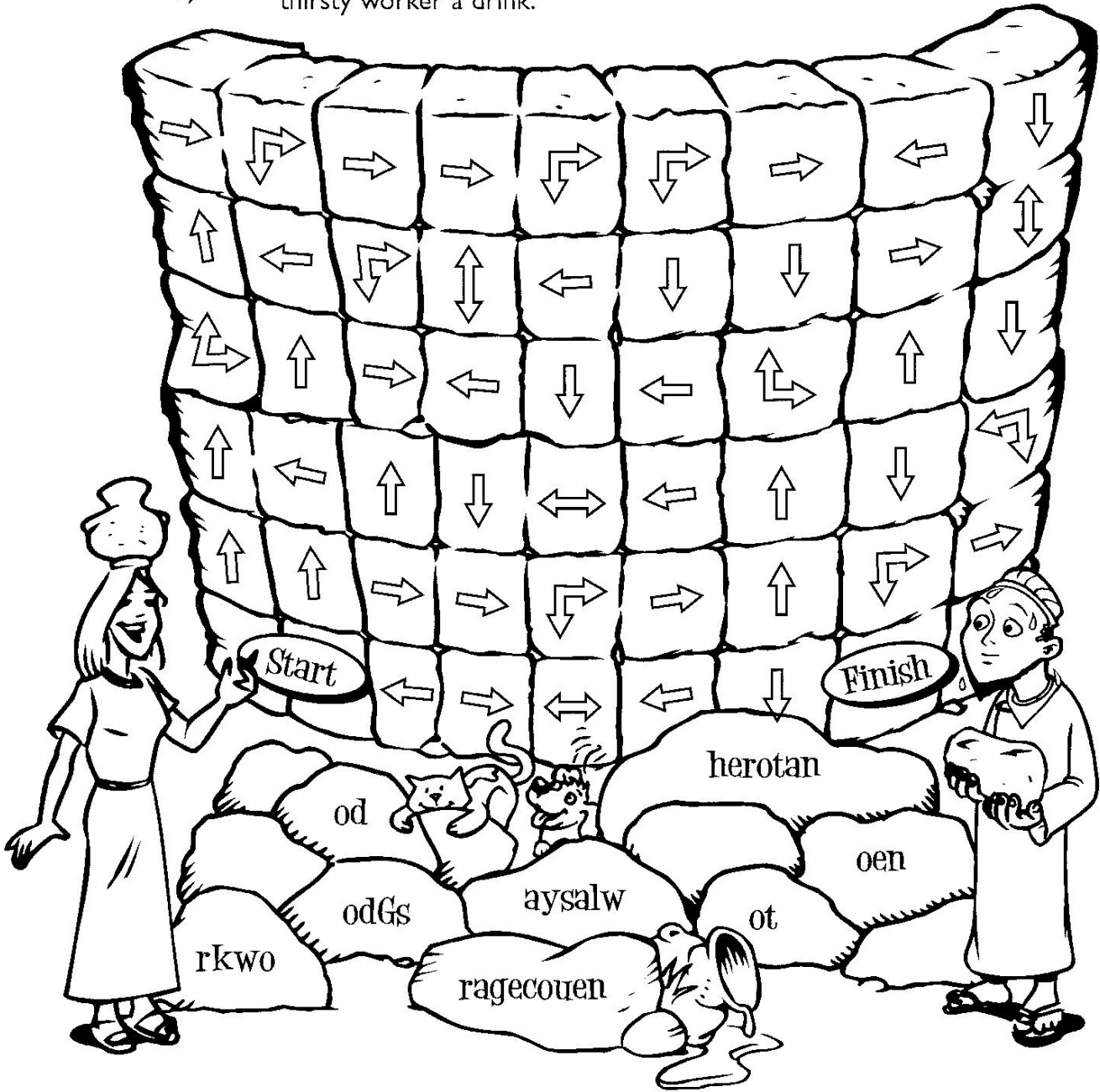
“But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.” 2 Thessalonians 3:3

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The Challenge

God wants us to help each other. Follow the directions in the arrows to help the water bearer get through the maze so that she can give the thirsty worker a drink.



The Super Challenge

Unscramble the words in the rocks for some important words from God.

THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON NEHEMIAH 2-8

THE STORY OF NEHEMIAH



Nehemiah was a cupbearer for the king of Persia. One day as Nehemiah served wine to the king, he asked, "Nehemiah, why do you look so sad?"

Nehemiah replied, "How can I be happy when I know that the walls of Jerusalem are broken down?"

The king asked Nehemiah what he wanted. Nehemiah told the king that he wanted to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city.

The king agreed and sent Nehemiah to Jerusalem with soldiers to protect him and a letter giving him permission to get wood from the forest.

While Nehemiah and his workers rebuilt the city, enemies came and made fun of them. The enemies wanted to kill the workers and knock down the wall.

"Don't be afraid," said Nehemiah. "God will fight for us!"

Half of the workers worked on the wall while the other half stood guard.

When the wall was finished, the enemies gave up and went home. The enemies knew that God had helped the people rebuild the wall.

Then Nehemiah gathered all the people together to celebrate. The priests read the Word of God all day long.

Nehemiah said, "This is a day to be happy! God is pleased we have finished rebuilding the walls. Let us obey God and He will bless us and be on our side."

To find out more, check out Nehemiah 2-8 in your Bible.

QUESTIONS

1. Why was Nehemiah so sad?
2. What did Nehemiah want to do?
3. Why did Nehemiah have half of the builders stand guard?
4. Why did the people celebrate?

MEMORY VERSE

"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one."
2 Thessalonians 3:3

FILL IN THE BLANKS

king	Nehemiah	permission
enemies	wall	sad

_____ was a cupbearer for the king. One day Nehemiah was _____. The _____ wanted to know why Nehemiah was sad. Nehemiah told the king that he wanted to rebuild the city _____ in Jerusalem. The king gave Nehemiah _____ to rebuild the wall. Some _____ wanted to kill the workers. But, God was with them!