

# Old Testament

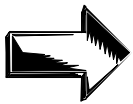
## Nehemiah listens to God    Nehemiah Chp. 1-2

Younger Verse

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life." John 14:6

Older Verse

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Bring some boxes for the kids to build with. Praise the kids for working together and building a "wall." Explain that today's lesson is about a prayer that was answered.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Nehemiah (knee-a-my-a) was a man that helped the king. He tasted the king's drink to make sure no one poisoned it. He was called a cupbearer. He was a very trusted man. The king liked Nehemiah and cared for him.

One day Nehemiah's brother told him some sad news. He discovered that the walls of his hometown (Jerusalem) were broken and had not been repaired. This troubled Nehemiah. He cried and prayed for several days. He had such a love for his beautiful city; he couldn't bear to see it in ruins.

The next day, Nehemiah served the king his drink. The king immediately noticed that Nehemiah was upset. He asked him what was wrong.

Nehemiah quickly prayed and then told the king and queen of his sadness. Then he boldly asked the king if he could go rebuild the city wall. After some talk, they agreed.

Nehemiah set out quickly. But he was very careful about the things he did. In fact, when he got to Jerusalem, he kept his plans a secret.

First, he went at night to look at the broken down wall. He rode a horse around the city and inspected it.

Then, he told the people. He shared how God had answered his prayers and how the king let him come to help. Everyone was excited. They wanted to start rebuilding the wall

Lesson Goals

Remember what Nehemiah prayed for  
Describe how God answers prayers

right away.

However, some people didn't like this plan. They asked lots of questions.

What was Nehemiah's answer—"We are God's servants. We will start rebuilding." He knew that GOD was helping them rebuild the wall. He wasn't going to let someone discourage them or stop the building.

Nehemiah trusted God. He knew that God had answered his prayers. Next week we will see what happened.

God answers prayer in 3 ways--yes, wait, and no. It is kind of like a stop light. The red light tells us to stop so that we will not be hurt in a car accident. God sometimes says "no" because it is not good for us.

A yellow light tells a driver to slow down and be cautious. God sometimes says "wait" or "slow down" and we have to wait for the prayer to be answered.

A green light is a signal for the driver to go ahead. God gives us green lights by answering our prayers with a "yes."

Nehemiah listened to God and did what He said. We must also listen to God and obey Him.

#### Learning Activities

Teach the children how to pray. Explain that they may want to remember to include 4 things: Praise God, Ask God, Confess to God, Thank God. (PACT) Another way is CHAT—Confess, Honor, Ask, and Thank) The important thing is the praying to God, not the order of the letters.

#### Memory Verse Activities

Bring a plastic cup. As the cup is passed, the person holding the cup must say one word of the verse.

#### Prayer Time

Make a time for each person to pray. If a person does not want to pray "out loud" tell them that they can pray "silently" to God and He will hear them. The kids may want to write down their prayers then read them as a prayer to God.

#### Snack Time/CleanUp

Pretend that you are the "cupbearer." Serve each person as if they are a king or queen.

Preschool Lesson  
For  
Nehemiah listens to God

Nehemiah (knee-a-my-a) was a man that helped the king. He tasted the king's drink to make sure no one poisoned it. (Bring a drink in a cup and taste it. Make a noise with your tongue like you are tasting it) He was called a cupbearer. The king trusted him very much. The king liked Nehemiah and cared for him.

One day Nehemiah's brother came into town. He told Nehemiah some sad news. Nehemiah discovered that the walls of his hometown (Jerusalem) were broken and had not been repaired. Nehemiah was very sad. He cried and prayed for several days. His city was so beautiful; he couldn't bear to see it in ruins.

The next day, Nehemiah served the king his drink. The king immediately noticed that Nehemiah was upset. He asked him what was wrong.

Nehemiah quickly prayed and then told the king and queen of his sadness. Then he boldly asked the king if he could go rebuild the city wall. After some talk, they agreed.

Nehemiah set out quickly. But he was very careful about the things he did. In fact, when he got to Jerusalem, he kept his plans a secret. (whisper when you say this)

First, he went at night to look at the broken down wall. He rode a horse around the city and inspected it. (Pretend like you are riding a horse and looking around)

Then, he talked to the people. He shared how God had answered his prayers and how the king let him come to help. Everyone was excited. They wanted to start rebuilding the wall right away. (Make motions to simulate working and building with bricks)

Nehemiah listened to God and did what He said. We must also listen to God and obey Him.

Sing this song to the tune of "The Wise Men built his house upon the rock."

Nehemiah prayed to God for help.  
Nehemiah prayed to God for help.  
Nehemiah prayed to God for help.  
And God did hear his prayers.

Come let's rebuild Jerusalem's wall.  
Come let's rebuild Jerusalem's wall.  
Come let's rebuild Jerusalem's wall.  
And work until it's done.

(remake of song lyrics from Standard Publishing)

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Hands On Activities  
For  
Nehemiah listens to God

Preschoolers can decorate two cups. One with a sad face and one with a happy face. Share how Nehemiah was sad, then he was happy.

Have a cup relay. Divide the group into two lines for a relay. Fill a cup with packing peanuts, cotton balls or another soft substance. The kids must quickly run/walk to the other side and return. Then they hand their cup to the next person. The person with the cup must not drop any peanuts. If so, they must stop and pick them up then continue.

Use boxes to build a wall. Be sure everyone works together to make a wall. Talk about how Nehemiah helped the people build a wall around his city. Share how a wall around the city protected the city from enemies.

Bring food snacks that can be used to create a wall. For example, big marshmallows and peanut butter as mortar, or cookies and frosting. There are many combinations! This is a fun way to build a “wall” and have fun eating!