

THE WALLS REBUILT

NEHEMIAH 1-6



CHRIST CONNECTION: Like Nehemiah helped keep his friends safe, Jesus keeps us safe too. When we follow Jesus, He will give us life with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: These are written so you may believe Jesus is God's Son. John 20:31

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Nehemiah was one of God's people in Persia. He worked for the king.
- When Nehemiah told the king that Jerusalem's walls were broken, the king wanted to help.
- Nehemiah and his friends fixed the walls; the city was safe! Nehemiah showed the people how to trust and follow God.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: Nehemiah was one of God's people in Persia who worked for the king. When Nehemiah heard that the walls around Jerusalem were broken and the city was not safe, Nehemiah was sad. He prayed to God for help. Nehemiah told the king about the broken walls, and the king wanted to help. He sent Nehemiah to fix the walls. When Nehemiah got to the city, he said, "Let's fix the walls!" Some people said, "You can't fix these walls!" But Nehemiah and his friends worked hard. Finally, the walls were fixed; the city was safe. Nehemiah showed the people how to trust and follow God.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Nehemiah 1. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”:

“These are written
So you may believe
Jesus is God’s Son.
John 20:31.”

SAY “ Who is God’s Son? Yes, Jesus! Our key passage phrase reminds us that Jesus is the Son of God. When we follow Jesus, He will give us life with God forever. ”

2 EXPLORE TEXTURES

Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Place a sheet of sandpaper, a large, smooth heavy rock, and a large wooden block on the floor. Encourage babies to feel the different textures. Talk about how each item feels. Monitor safety as babies touch objects. Provide assistance as needed. Read the gospel gems as the babies play.

SAY “ The items we touched are hard and rough. They remind me of how a wall can feel. Nehemiah and his friends fixed the walls; the city was safe! Nehemiah helped keep his friends safe; Jesus keeps us safe too. ”

3 CLIMB THE WALL

Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Stack a few soft blocks. Encourage the babies to help complete the stack and build a wall. Knock down the blocks, and assist babies in rebuilding it again. Ensure blocks fall away from the babies to maintain safety.

SAY “ Nehemiah was one of God’s people in Persia. When he told the king that Jerusalem’s walls were broken, the king wanted to help. He sent Nehemiah to fix the walls and keep the city safe! Did Nehemiah fix the walls? Yes! He fixed the walls. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Nehemiah 1. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 PLAY PRETEND

Provide play construction-worker clothes, helmets, and tools. Allow toddlers to work together to "fix" something broken within the room. Review the Bible story as the toddlers play.

SAY “ We have many tools to help us build walls today. People told Nehemiah the walls could not be fixed. Did he listen? No! He prayed to God for help and worked hard. He fixed the walls and showed the people how to trust God. ”

3 COUNT THE BEATS

Give each toddler a cardboard tube (one per toddler). Show toddlers how to pat the tubes on the ground, tap the tubes with a finger, or hit the end of the tube with a hand to keep a beat and make the sounds of "building." Encourage toddlers to count each sound with you. Thank God for using Nehemiah and his friends to rebuild the wall. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “ For the city to be safe, do you think the walls needed to be small or large? The walls had to be large! The walls helped keep the city safe. Jesus keeps us safe too. ”

4 REPAIR THE WALL

Adhere a large sheet of clear contact plastic to the wall, sticky side out. Place several sheets of stone-colored paper onto the plastic. Do not fully cover the plastic; leave obvious holes. Provide a variety of paper scraps in baskets or bins. Invite toddlers to help rebuild the wall by adding the paper scraps until there are no visible holes. Read the Bible story as the toddlers "rebuild" the wall.

SAY “ Did Nehemiah build the wall alone? No, his friends helped him. Nehemiah and his friends showed the people how to trust and follow God. ”

5 BUILD WITH STONES

Provide each toddler with a small amount of air-dry clay. Provide paper plates, plastic spoons, and large, smooth stones. Invite toddlers to build a stone wall, using the clay to hold their "walls" together. Monitor safety, ensuring toddlers do not throw stones or put any stone in their mouths.

SAY “ Who fixed the walls of Jerusalem? Yes! Nehemiah and his friends. Nehemiah was one of God's people in Persia. He worked for the king. The king wanted to help Jerusalem, so he sent Nehemiah to rebuild the wall. ”

THE WALLS REBUILT

NEHEMIAH 1–6

CHRIST CONNECTION: Like Nehemiah helped keep his friends safe, Jesus keeps us safe too. When we follow Jesus, He will give us life with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: These are written so you may believe Jesus is God’s Son.
John 20:31

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: MARCH TO JERUSALEM

Place a pile of **foam or cardboard blocks** on one side of the room. Explain that those blocks are the broken walls of Jerusalem, but you all are in Persia. Invite toddlers to stand in a line and march from “Persia” to “Jerusalem” to fix the walls. Lead toddlers to clap, cheer, and say, “Let’s fix the walls!” as you walk around the room.

SAY “ Where did Nehemiah live? Yes, Persia. Nehemiah was one of God’s people in Persia who worked for the king. When Nehemiah heard about Jerusalem’s walls, he was sad and prayed to God for help. The king sent Nehemiah to fix the walls in Jerusalem. ”

2 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”:

“These are written
So you may believe
Jesus is God’s Son.
John 20:31.”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase tells us that Jesus is God’s Son. When we follow Jesus, He will give us life with God forever. ”

3 PATCH THE WALLS

Draw a “wall” pattern on **stone-colored paper** (one per toddler). Use a **hole punch** to make holes in each toddler’s wall. Provide each toddler with **dot stickers**. Encourage toddlers to “fix the wall” by covering the holes with the stickers. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers work.

SAY “ Did Jerusalem’s walls get fixed? Yes! The walls of Jerusalem were broken, but Nehemiah and his friends worked hard to fix the walls. Nehemiah helped keep his friends safe and showed the people how to trust and follow God. ”

4 KEEP THE CITY SAFE

Place a **hula hoop** on the floor. Provide **large blocks**. Encourage toddlers to create a wall of blocks alongside the outside of the hula hoop. Once the entire circle is finished, encourage toddlers to celebrate that the city is safe! Review the Bible story.

SAY “ Did Nehemiah and his friends fix the broken walls of Jerusalem? Yes! They helped keep the city safe. Like Nehemiah helped keep his friends safe, Jesus keeps us safe too. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s **Big Picture Card** to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, and gospel gems throughout the week.