

# Rebuilding the Walls

## Week 21



**Big Idea:** Often, when God wants something done, he calls us to work side-by-side with each other and with him.

**Key Verse:** Malachi 3:1

I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

### Table Talk

When the walls around Jerusalem were completed, the people celebrated. Ezra, the priest, read God's law to them from sunrise to noon (Nehemiah 8:3). Why do you think he did that?

Do you think the people got bored?

What's the longest you've ever been in church? What did you do?

What's the longest that you've listened to somebody talk about God?

What do you remember most?

After Ezra spoke, the people went away and celebrated with great joy, because they now understood God's Word. Why did they react this way?

Do you react the same way when you hear God's Word? Why?

### Living Faith

Nehemiah was brilliant in getting all of God's people to work together in rebuilding Jerusalem's wall. By working together, they completed the project in 52 days! Before that, the Jews had languished in their attempts to protect and rebuild Jerusalem. King Cyrus first allowed God's people to return to Jerusalem in 560 B.C. Then the second temple was completed in 516 B.C., but for 70 years the city was vulnerable to attack. In fact, many of the surrounding rulers made sure to keep the Israelites weak. But when Nehemiah showed up in 445 B.C., it took just less than two months to secure the walls and give God's people a safe place to live. In all, it took 115 years for God's people to rebuild and fortify Jerusalem.

Have your family pretend to be raiders on Jerusalem by playing a classic wall breaker video game. You can go to [www.silvergames.com/game/break-it/](http://www.silvergames.com/game/break-it/) or go to Google and search for "breakout games."

See which family member is best at breaking down the walls. Let everybody take a couple of turns and then give a prize to whomever scores the highest.

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