Building Your Life for God

Studies in Ezra, Nehemiah, Ezra, Daniel, Ezekiel, Haggai, & Malachi

[Shaping Hearts for God Curriculum]

**Lesson 10 – Nehemiah and the Walls of Jerusalem**

**Theme: Compassion - Loving and Helping God’s People**

**Memory Verse - Nehemiah 8:5-6**

“Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people...and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord the great God. And all the people answered ‘Amen, Amen!’ while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.”

**Daily Bible Readings**

**Thursday** – Nehemiah 1:1-6, 11-12 - **Friday** – Nehemiah 2:1-8, 13, 17-20 -

**Saturday** – Nehemiah 4:1-9, 16-18, 20 - **Monday** – Nehemiah 5:1-4, 11-12, 16-19 -

**Tuesday** – Nehemiah 6:1-3, 9, 15-16

**Questions**

1. **What report did Nehemiah receive about what was going on in Jerusalem?**
2. **How did Nehemiah react to the news about Jerusalem?**
3. **What did Nehemiah ask God to do for him when he made a request of the king?**
4. **What did Nehemiah ask the Persian king?**
5. **What did people say when Nehemiah suggested they rebuild the city walls?**
6. ***True or False.* Everyone was happy that Nehemiah returned to rebuild the walls.**
7. **Nehemiah 4:1-9, 16-18, 20 - Who fought for the Jews? Who held the weapons? Who continued to work? Who decided to attack?**
8. **When the people needed money to pay the king’s tax, who did they borrow from? Were the lenders treating them fairly?**
9. ***True or False*. Nehemiah led the people to work but he did not work himself.**
10. **To stop the building, what did Sanballat and Tobiah try to get Nehemiah to do?**
11. **What did Nehemiah ask God to do to his hands?**
12. **How was it possible for the workers to finish the walls in 52 days?**

**Teacher Notes:**

**In Susa, the Persian capital, Nehemiah was a servant of King Artaxerxes. Nehemiah was a Jew, but he lived in Persia. About thirteen years after Ezra went back to Jerusalem, Nehemiah heard from family and friends that the people and city were in bad shape. Nehemiah was sorry and sad to hear this and prayed to God about it. Nehemiah decided he would return to Jerusalem and help his people. He prayed to God that King Artaxerxes would give him permission to go.**

**The king noticed that Nehemiah was sad and asked him what was wrong. Nehemiah told him about Jerusalem and asked permission to return and rebuild. King Artaxerxes gave Nehemiah permission to return and he gave him materials for building. Nehemiah knew the good hand of God was behind the king’s decision.**

**Once Nehemiah got to Jerusalem, he secretly examined the damaged walls. Until he had a plan in mind, he did not want people to know what he was doing. After looking at the walls, Nehemiah spoke to the leaders in Jerusalem about rebuilding. They said, “Let’s get up and build.” They were eager to work!**

**Some people were against the rebuilding project and tried to stop it. They were scared that Jerusalem would be strong again. They tried to discourage the builders by making fun of their work. Nehemiah helped the people be strong. He told them God would help them do the work and complete it. This encouraged the people to keep building.**

**The men who were against the work did not let up. They planned to attack the workers. Nehemiah prayed to God about the work. He set up a warning system in case the builders were attacked somewhere on the wall. He gave workers weapons and assigned guards. The workers had courage and kept building.**

**Nehemiah decided to help rebuild the walls, and he stuck to this work. Some who were not Jews tried to get the workers to stop building. Even some of the leading people in Jerusalem did not support the work. But most of the people followed Nehemiah’s leadership and decided the work was important.**

**One time, the enemies tried to get Nehemiah away from the city. They asked Nehemiah to come talk to them, but they planned to hurt him. They thought that if Nehemiah were out of the way, work on the walls would stop. Nehemiah saw through their trick and said, “I am doing a great work and cannot come down.”**

**Sometimes there were problems and arguments among the workers, but Nehemiah helped them solve their problems so they could keep on working. The damaged, crumbling walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt in 52 days! How could they do it? Because they decided to do it and God helped them.**