



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for May 18, 2008

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"The People Ended the Work"

MEMORY VERSE: "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work" (Nehemiah 4:6).

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Nehemiah 4:1-3, 6-9, 13-15

1 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.

2 And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?

3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.

.....

6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

7 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

8 And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.

9 Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

.....

13 Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

15 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

Nehemiah 6:15

15 So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that we should finish the work we start for God.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Enemies tried to keep God's people from building the wall.
2. Nehemiah and the people finished the work.
3. God will help us finish the work He gives us to do.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, make a word card that reads "The End." Put it in the mystery box (or you can use a colorful shoe box).

For Telling the Lesson, make a paper tulip. On it print "The People Ended the Work." Bring tape and a dry-erase board.

For Helping to Remember, cut from construction paper several irregularly shaped stones for each student. You will need paper, crayons, and glue.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

As God had promised, He restored His people to their homeland. Jerusalem was in ruins. In 586 B.C., Babylon had destroyed Jerusalem, burned the temple, and taken captives. Nehemiah and those who came with him were the third group of exiles to return to Judah from Babylon.

Nehemiah led the team to rebuild the city walls. Any good work for God draws opposition and tests faith and commitment. Opposition came from Sanballat, the governor of Samaria. He wanted to keep the Jews weak.

Samaria and Judah often had conflicts. Almost three hundred years before, Assyria had conquered Israel, the ten tribes to the north of Judah, and taken many captives. Sargon of Assyria forced captives from other lands to repopulate Israel. These foreigners intermarried with the Jews left in the land and created the mixed race called Samaritans.

Almost at once, contention began between Jews and Samaritans. By the time of Christ, four hundred years later, Jews and Samaritans despised each other (John 4:9).

Opposition did not stop Nehemiah, and it should not stop us.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Morgan learned to crochet and started a scarf. She never finished it. She started a scrapbook but tired of it. Morgan began piano lessons, but she decided they were too much work.

Dad said, "Morgan, anyone can start a task, but it takes hard work and courage to finish it. I want you to keep taking piano lessons. Learn to finish the work you start." (Show word card.)

Even in God's work, some people start but do not finish. The people in today's lesson began a brave work for God and finished it.

TELLING THE LESSON

Sanballat, the governor of Samaria, was angry with Nehemiah and the Jews. God had kept His promise and let the Jews go home to Judah. Sanballat did not like having

so many Jews in the land. He especially hated to see them building up the walls of Jerusalem. Maybe they would grow strong and threaten his power.

Sanballat decided to stop the Jews. The first thing he tried was ridicule. With his friends and the army of Samaria around him, Sanballat said, "What do these weak Jews think they can do? Do they really think they can build this wall? Do they think that if they offer a sacrifice to their God, He will help them finish the work in a day? Will they build with these burned stones?"

Tobiah the Ammonite said, "Even a fox could knock over what they are building." Sanballat and his men did not know God can use weak things and people (1 Cor. 1:18-31; 2 Cor. 12:1-10). They did not know that the Jews had faith and that God can do anything.

The people kept working hard. They built the wall up halfway. When their enemies saw the work progressing, they became really angry. Making fun of the Jews was not going to stop them. They decided to unite to fight the Jews and force them to stop working.

Jerusalem was surrounded by enemies. (Diagram this on a chalk or dry-erase board.) The enemy to the north was Sanballat and the Samaritans. The enemy to the east was Tobiah and the Ammonites. The enemy to the south was Geshem and the Arabs. The enemy to the west was Ashdod. None of these people wanted to see the Jews get strong.

The Jews were surrounded. They prayed, and they posted guards day and night. Where the wall was most open to attack, Nehemiah stationed the people by families. The men had swords, spears, and bows. They were ready to work together and fight together if needed.

Nehemiah encouraged the people. He told them not to fear the enemy and to remember how great God is. He told them to be ready to fight for their brothers, children, wives, and homes.

When the enemy saw that Nehemiah and the people knew about their attack plan and were ready for them, they did not attack. The Jews went back to working on the wall.

In just fifty-two days of work, on the twenty-fifth of a month like our August-September, the Jews finished repairing the wall. (Tape tulip behind fence.)

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Nothing stopped Nehemiah and the Jews from finishing the work God gave them to do. When people made fun of them, this did not stop them. Threats of war did not stop them. When God gives us a job to do, we should finish it, no matter how hard it is or how long it takes. God will help us finish the work He gives us to do.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Students should glue stones on a piece of paper to make a wall. They may print the memory verse on the paper.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work" (Nehemiah 4:6).

The people did not let ridicule stop them. They kept working hard for God. They knew God would help them. They wanted to finish the work they had started.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

When Nehemiah finished rebuilding the wall in Jerusalem, he knew that there was still more building to do. The people needed to rebuild their lives. Nehemiah knew they needed to hear God's Word. Study Nehemiah 8 "Ezra Read the Law" in anticipation of next week's lesson.

Lessons Summarized by:

Willie Ferrell

Jesus Is All Ministries

www.jesusisall.com

Lesson Activity

TRUE OR FALSE:

1. "When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very Indignant, and mocked the Jews." **NEHEMIAH 4:1 TRUE OR FALSE**

UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER:

2. "So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height..." **NEHEMIAH 4:6** a. for the people had a mind to work. b. for the pay was great.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

3. "Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very (**HAPPY, ANGRY**), and all of them conspired together to come and (**ATTACK, BUILD**) Jerusalem and create confusion." **NEHEMIAH 4:7-8**

4. "Nevertheless we made our (**COMPLAINT, PRAYER**) to our God, and because of them, we set a watch against them day and night." **NEHEMIAH 4:9**

FILL IN THE BLANK:

5. "So the wall was _____ on the twenty-fifth day of the month of Elul, in fifty-two days." **NEHEMIAH 6:15**

Cross Word Puzzle

N E H E M I A H N W W O O Y J
H W J V D J I B B K H Q H E E
F G J D I H L V L Y J A R Q P
Q D E H S I N I F Y T U C B G
M M S I V N D Q L E S E O G T
H W A M E F S O D A R G N O E
R D N O M G U V L K V W S J P
E I B O N I J E C H A A T M M
Y C A F B E M A N L J T R N U
A P L U A G T Y L L D N U R R
R L L S S T N A V R E S C M T
P O A R A W L X K B U B T I G
M P T O S T L I U B V K I F L
G D C O Z K J C A R C L O J Y
Q Q N D W O T J U O G D N Q T

**ATTACK
BUILT
CONSTRUCTION
DOORS**

**FINISHED
JERUSALEM
NEHEMIAH
PRAYER**

**SANBALLAT
SERVANTS
TRUMPET
WALL**