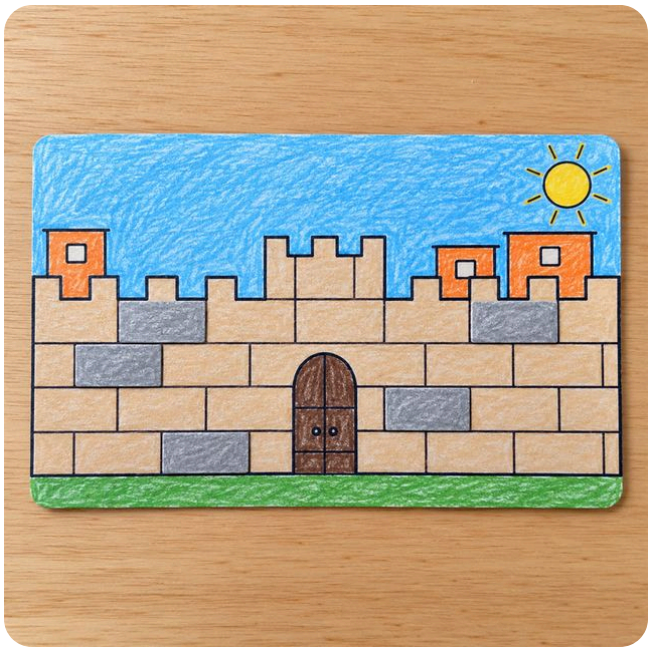
Preschool–Grade 5

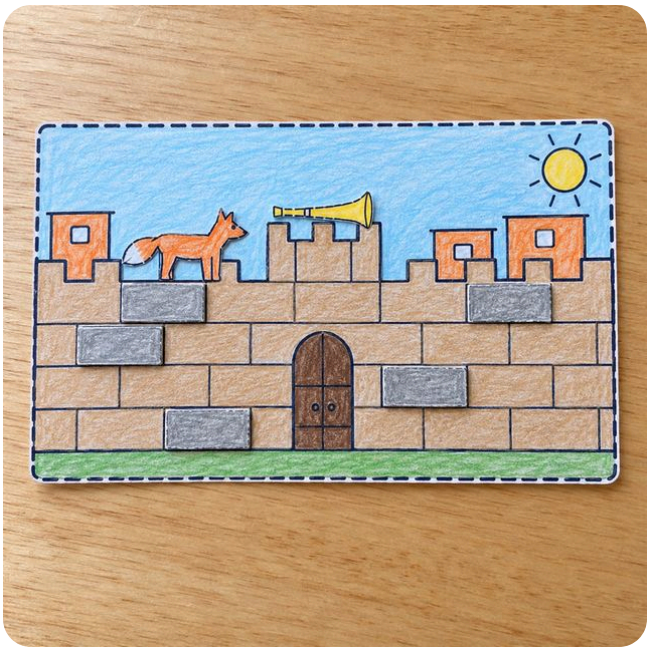
Nehemiah Craft

A city wall card where kids glue new stones into the broken wall · Nehemiah 1–6 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



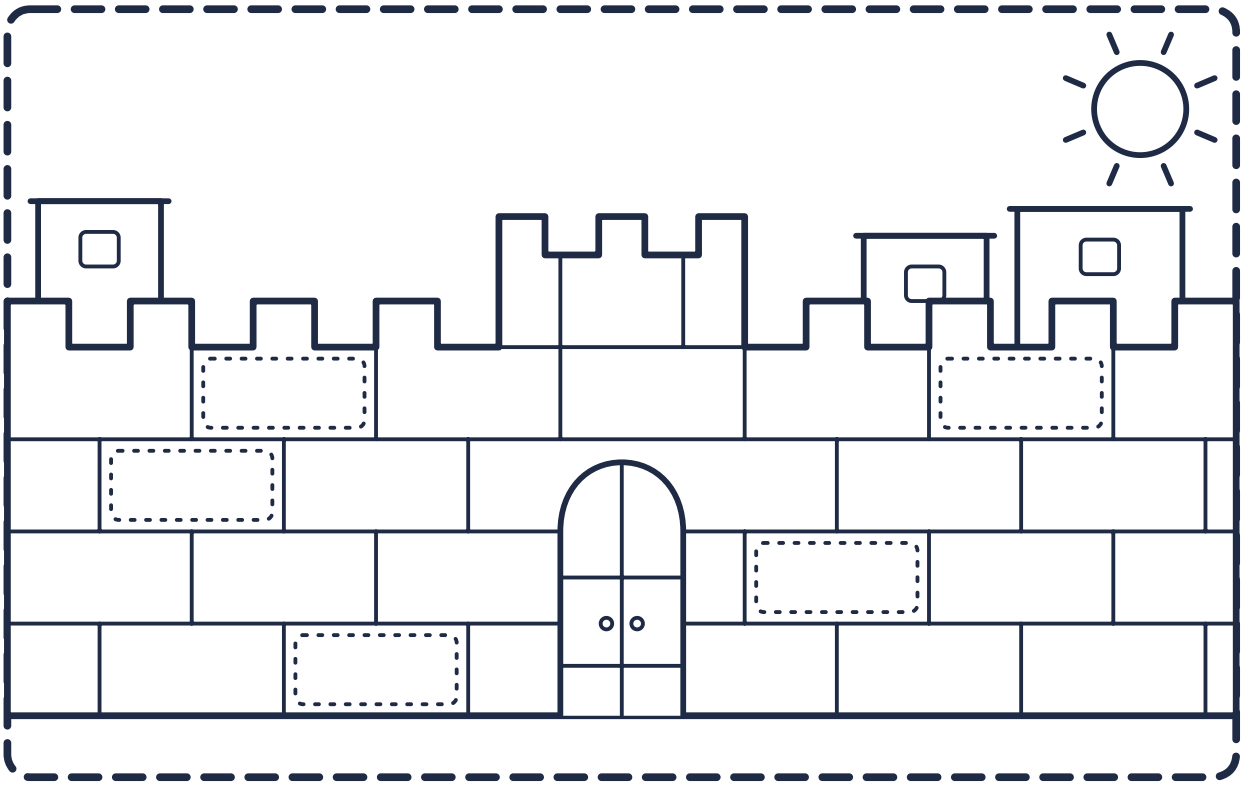
Harder

Medium (left): a wall card with a light blue sky, a yellow sun, three orange houses behind a light brown stone wall with battlements, a taller gate tower in the middle with a dark brown gate, green ground, and five gray stones glued into the empty spots so the wall has no gaps. Harder (right): the same card with an orange fox standing on top of the wall left of the gate and a yellow trumpet lying on top of the gate tower.

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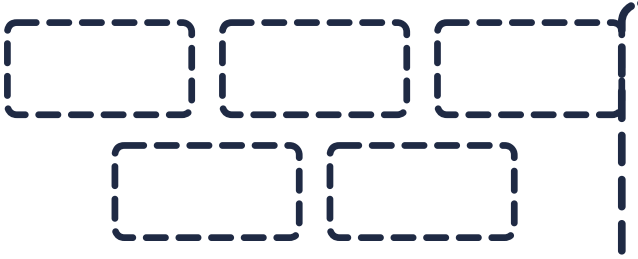
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Wall card: color the sky light blue, the sun yellow, the houses orange, the wall light brown, the gate dark brown and the ground green

Leave the five dotted empty spots white. The wall of Jerusalem was broken down (Nehemiah 1:3).



5 new stones: color them gray

Glue one in each empty spot in the wall.

> And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?
>
> **Nehemiah 6:3 (KJV)**

Verse card: glue it on the back

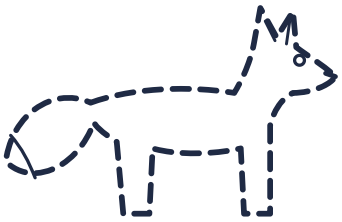
of the wall card, the verse facing out.

The wall was finished "in fifty and two days" (Nehemiah 6:15).

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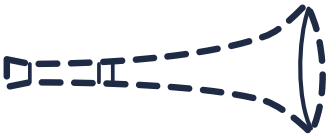
Name: _____

✂ Harder level



Fox: color it orange, the tail tip white

Glue it standing on top of the wall, left of the gate.



Trumpet: color it yellow

Glue it lying on top of the gate tower.

"If a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall" (Nehemiah 4:3). But the wall stood!

How to add the fox and the trumpet

1. Make the wall card from page 2, with the verse card glued on the back and all 5 gray stones glued into the wall.
2. Color the fox orange and the tip of its tail white. Color the trumpet yellow.
3. Cut out the fox and the trumpet on their dashed lines.
4. Glue the fox standing on top of the wall, between the house on the left and the gate tower, with its feet on the top of the wall.
5. Glue the trumpet lying flat on top of the gate tower.
6. Tell what they mean. Tobiah mocked, "if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall" (Nehemiah 4:3), but the fox stands on the wall and the wall stands. Nehemiah said, "In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us" (4:20). **Resort ye thither** means come there.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/nehemiah-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), light blue, yellow, orange, light brown, dark brown, green and gray crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out each child's wall card, 5 stones and verse card, and glue the verse card on the back of the wall card. Make one finished craft to show the kids.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out the pieces and glue the verse card on the back. Kids color the card and the stones. Help them glue a stone into each empty spot while you say, "Everyone worked together to build the wall!"
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the pieces, glue the verse card on the back and glue the 5 new stones into the wall. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make it like the medium level, then add the fox and the trumpet from page 3 (Nehemiah 4:3, 4:20). They say Nehemiah 6:3 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Why there are no people: the craft draws no people. The broken wall and the new stones tell the story: "the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down" (Nehemiah 1:3), and the people said, "Let us rise up and build" (2:18). The fox is Tobiah's mocking words (4:3), and the trumpet is Nehemiah's call (4:20). The wall was finished in fifty and two days (6:15).

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** on the wall card, color the sky light blue, the sun yellow, the houses orange, the wall light brown, the gate dark brown and the ground green. Leave the five dotted empty spots white. Color the 5 new stones gray.
2. **Cut:** cut out the wall card, the 5 stones and the verse card on the dashed lines.
3. **Glue the verse card:** turn the wall card face down. Glue the verse card on its back, with the verse facing out.
4. **Glue the stones:** turn the wall card face up. Put glue on the back of each gray stone and press it over one dotted empty spot. When all five are in, the wall has no gaps: "there was no breach left therein" (Nehemiah 6:1). A **breach** is a hole or gap in a wall.
5. **Tell the story:** the wall of Jerusalem was broken down (1:3). Nehemiah prayed (1:4), and the people said, "Let us rise up and build" (2:18). "The people had a mind to work" (4:6), and the wall was finished in fifty and two days (6:15). Turn it over and read Nehemiah 6:3 together.

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the empty spots. What news did Nehemiah hear about Jerusalem? *(The wall was broken down and the gates were burned with fire, Nehemiah 1:3)*
- What did Nehemiah do when he heard it? *(He sat down and wept, fasted and prayed to the God of heaven, 1:4)*
- What was Nehemiah's job? *(He was the king's cupbearer; he served the king his wine, 1:11; 2:1)*
- What did the people say when Nehemiah told them about God's good hand on him? *("Let us rise up and build," 2:18)*
- Glue in the last stone. How long did it take to finish the wall? *(Fifty and two days, 52 days, 6:15)*
- Point to the fox (harder level). What did Tobiah say a fox could do? *(Break down their stone wall, 4:3)* Did it? *(No. The wall was finished, and the enemies saw "this work was wrought of our God," 6:16)*

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Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** cupbearer = the man who served the king his wine; breach = a hole or gap in a wall; wrought = worked or made; a mind to work = they wanted to work hard; resort ye thither = come there; cease = stop; whilst = while.
- **What the Bible says:** the wall was broken down and the gates burned with fire (Nehemiah 1:3), so the card has empty spots in the wall. The people built it together, each group beside the next (Nehemiah 3), so every child adds the stones that close the gaps. The Bible doesn't say how many gaps there were; the five spots are only a way to show the breaches. It names a sheep gate, a fish gate and other gates (3:1–3), so the card shows one gate, not a particular one.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and glue the verse card on ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Gluing the stones:** cover the whole back of each stone with glue so its corners don't curl. A stone that is a little crooked is fine; the wall still has no gap.
- **Harder level:** the fox's legs are thin. Cut slowly around them, or leave a little extra paper between the legs.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Nehemiah Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/nehemiah.

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