Preschool–Grade 6

Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Nehemiah prayed, and God helped him. I can pray, and God helps me too.
Bible passage: Nehemiah 1–6. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "I am doing a great work" *Nehemiah 6:3 (KJV)*.
You need: a Bible, 20 or more building blocks or paper cups, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Nehemiah 1. Knock down a small block wall and leave the blocks in a pile.

1. Opening game: Fix the Wall (5 minutes)

Show the kids the pile of blocks. Say: "Oh no! This wall is broken. Can you help me fix it?" Each child adds blocks until the wall stands again. Say: "We did it together! Today we will hear a true story about a man named Nehemiah who helped fix a broken wall."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Nehemiah 1. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Nehemiah worked for a king. He served the king his wine (Nehemiah 1:11; 2:1). *(Hold up a pretend cup.)*
Nehemiah heard sad news. The wall of Jerusalem was broken down (1:3). *(Make a sad face.)*
Nehemiah cried, and he prayed to God (1:4). *(Fold your hands.)*
Say it with me: "Nehemiah prayed!"
The king asked what he wanted. Nehemiah prayed again (2:4). *(Fold your hands again.)*
The king said yes. He sent Nehemiah to build (2:5–6). *(Point far away.)*
The people said, "Let us rise up and build" (2:18). *(Stand up!)*
Everyone worked together (3:1–2). *(Stack your fists, one on top of the other.)*
Some men made fun of them (4:1–3). *(Shake your head no.)*
But the people kept building (4:6). *(Stack your fists again.)*
Nehemiah said, "I am doing a great work" (6:3). *(Make big strong arms.)*
The wall was finished in 52 days (6:15). *(Clap, clap, clap!)*
Say it with me: "God helped them finish!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What was broken? *(The wall of Jerusalem, Nehemiah 1:3)*
2. What did Nehemiah do? *(He prayed, 1:4)*
3. Did the people stop building when men made fun of them? *(No! They kept building, 4:6)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Nehemiah said, 'I am doing a great work.' That means, 'I am doing a big, important job for God.'" Teach the motion: pretend to stack stones, one hand on top of the other, as you say it. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Nehemiah 6:3" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Pass the Stones (5–10 minutes)

Kids stand in a line. Put the pile of blocks at one end and an empty spot at the other. Pass the blocks one at a time down the line, and the last child builds the wall. Switch places so everyone gets a turn to build. Say: "Everyone helped, just like in Nehemiah's story!" Then give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a wall made of stones.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for hearing me when I pray.
Help me work hard and help others. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: let every child add blocks to the wall. If they get wiggly, do the "Let us rise up and build" motion again and have everyone stand up. The enemies' plans and the weapons (Nehemiah 4:8–23) are left out of this level on purpose. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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