

God is Faithful to His People

Nehemiah – Rise Up and Build

And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king’s words that he had spoken to me.

So, they said, “Let us rise up and build.” Then they set their hands to this good work. – Nehemiah 2:18

*God created us to need each other. We aren’t meant to do hard things all alone. God wants us to help one another and live life together. When we do, we have lots of opportunities to encourage each other to trust in God, and remind each other that **God is faithful to His people.***

- **Ask:** Has anyone helped you or encouraged you this week?
- What did you need help with?
- How were your friends encouraging?

In our story today we’ll hear how God used Nehemiah to encourage His people as they rebuilt Jerusalem’s walls.

Read: Pages 512 – 515 (Build the Wall) from the Action Bible provided.

Discuss:

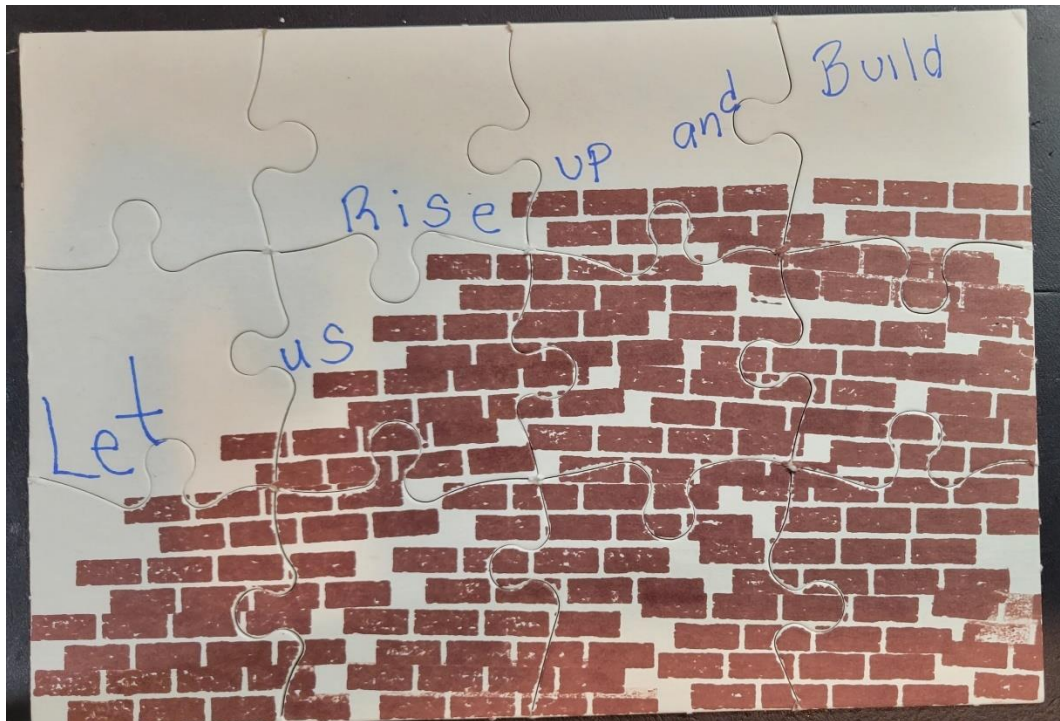
- Building a city wall was no easy task. Imagine cutting and lifting all those heavy stones, putting them in just the right place on the wall to fill in all the gaps. The people put the large doors, bolts and bars in place along the wall where the gates would be. This was hard work!
- But the Jews had more than just tiring labor to worry about. There were also people who mocked and threatened them on all sides of the city.
- There were some men named Sanballat and Tobiah who were angry when they heard that Nehemiah and God’s people were rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem. They didn’t want them to finish their task so they made fun of them saying,
What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?
- **Ask:** How would you have felt if you were one of the Jews hearing those unkind words?
- The people were afraid. They knew their enemies were strong, and they worried that they would be attacked as they rebuilt the wall.
- But instead of giving up, God’s people prayed. They asked God for strength and guidance.
- Nehemiah was a good leader and he helped the people come up with a plan. They decided that half the people would work on building the wall and the other half would stand guard with weapons in case their enemies came to fight them. Some people even worked while holding a weapon in one hand!

- Nehemiah knew that God had a plan for the city of Jerusalem and no one would stand in His way!
- Nehemiah reminded the people that God is great and powerful, and no enemy is too mighty for Him! God would fight for them; He would protect His people, because God keeps His promises.
- **God is faithful to His people.**
- The people trusted God and they worked very hard to finish building the wall in just 52 days! When their enemies and surrounding nations heard how quickly they finished building they were afraid because they knew that the One True God had helped them.
- Just like the Jews in the story we need protection because we have a very real enemy: sin.
- But we can’t build a wall high enough to protect us from sin because it’s inside of us. We can’t run fast enough to get away, or fight hard enough to defeat sin. We are powerless to save ourselves against our greatest enemy.
- There is only One Person powerful enough to protect us and that is Jesus.
- **Only Jesus** can rescue us from our sin.
- **Only Jesus** can forgive us for the bad things we have done, thought, felt, or said. No one else can do that! No parent, grandparent, teacher, or friend can rescue us.
- We have to put our trust in Jesus to be saved. When we trust Him, He doesn’t build a wall around us but He offers us this promise: to always be with us. In Deuteronomy 31:6 it says this: *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.*

Craft: Build the Wall Puzzle

Materials – Blank puzzle pieces, brick stamps or sponges, ink pads or finger paint. Markers.

Coloring Page



Videos:

God’s Story – Nehemiah <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fifL0TcGrY>

Veggie Tales: Rack, Shack & Benny –

<https://app.pureflix.com/videos/405115430471/veggietales-rack-shack-benny?recommended=q%3Aveggie%20tales%20>

End in prayer

Feel free to take a picture of their art work and post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe.

Have a Blessed Day & Week!

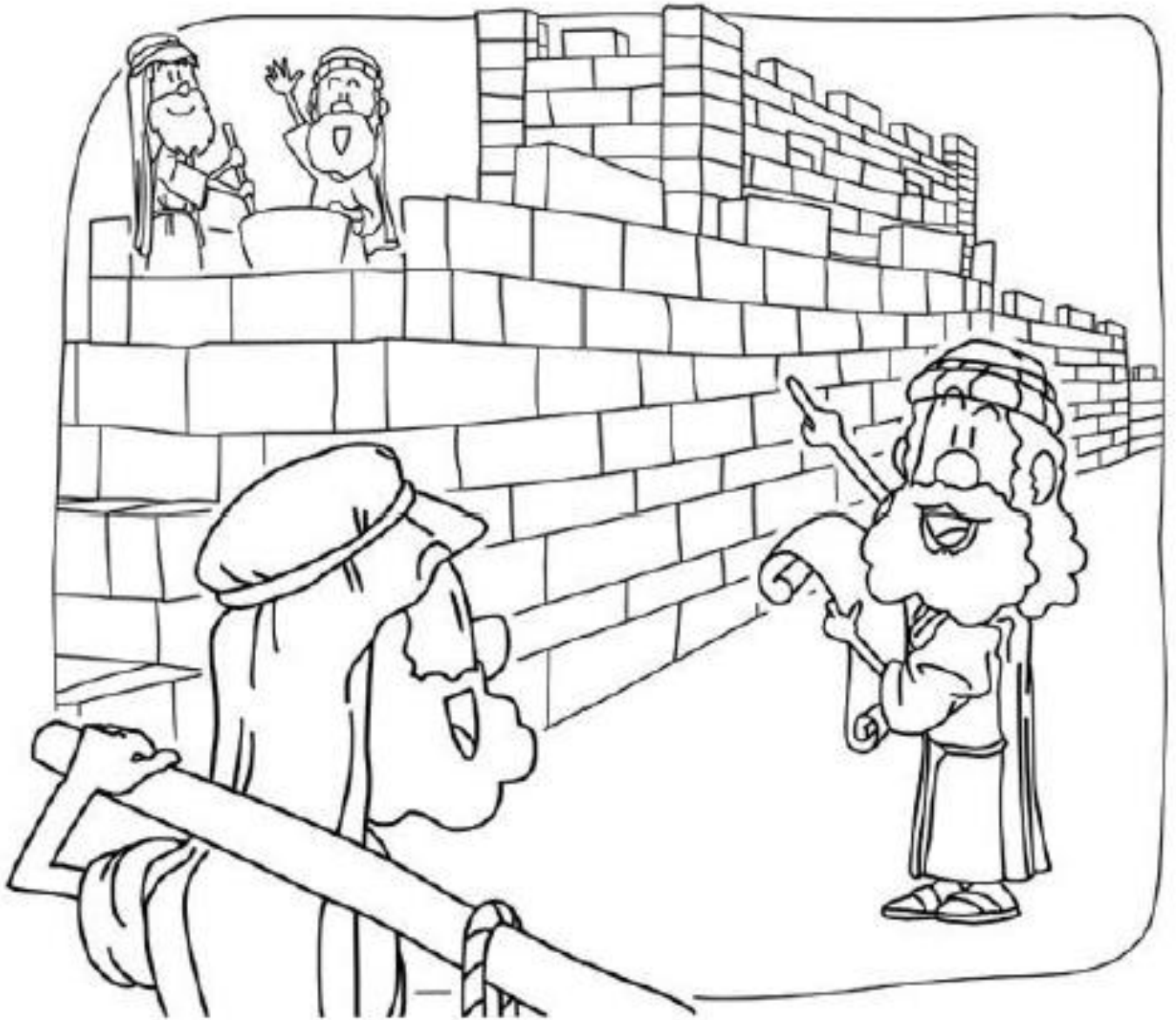
Until we can meet again ~

Teacher Chrissy

Coloring page from: chrisitancliparts.net

Lesson help from: <https://ministry-to-children.com/> and The Action Bible

Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem's Walls



"Let Us Rise Up and Build"

Nehemiah 2:18