

## LESSON PLAN

### JERUSALEM'S WALLS REBUILT

#### Nehemiah 1, 2, 4, 6

**Lesson Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 4:7 - "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

**Lesson Aim:** God wants us to finish the work that He gives us to do.

**Lesson Plan:** Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – Be plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

**KEY (for Attention):** Have you ever seen a jigsaw puzzle that was only half done? It wasn't very pretty, was it? A jigsaw puzzle isn't nice looking until it is all done. If your mother started to make a cake, but didn't put it in the oven, it would not be done. She would have to finish the cake by baking it. Just like your mother needs to bake the cake to finish making it, so you can eat it, so God wants you to finish the job He has given you, so your work will please Him. Jobs that are not finished are displeasing to Him. When He gives you a job to do, He wants you to finish it.

**HE (for Authority):** The apostle Paul was a great worker that pleased God and at the end of his life he said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). This was done until it was finished. Will you try to be like Paul and finish the job that God has given you to do?

#### **Explaining difficult phrases in the verse:**

"I have fought a good fight" – Paul fought against Satan and those who opposed the Gospel. It is good to fight against Satan and the enemies of the Gospel.

"I have finished my course" – Paul pictured himself like a runner in a race. The "course" was his race track. Paul did not stop working for the Lord until he finished the work that God gave him to do.

"I have kept the faith" – Paul kept (guarded and obeyed) the faith (all the teachings of God in the Bible). He did not deny the Lord Jesus or the truth that God gave to him.

**SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.** This lesson will tell us how Nehemiah finished the job God gave him, even though it was packed with danger. His job was to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in spite of hostile opposition.

#### **I. Nehemiah's Prayer - Nehemiah 1:1-11**

Nehemiah lived in Babylon and was the cup bearer for the king. One day Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the gates were burned. This made him very sad and he prayed to God. He confessed his sins and asked God to help him do the job that he knew God wanted him to do. He knew God wanted him to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah did the right thing when he had a problem. He prayed!

**WE:** We must remember to pray when we have a job to do for God. We need to confess our sins and ask God to help us. God wants us to pray to Him about the job He has given to us. If we pray to God before we start a job for Him, we will have His help to finish the job for Him.

#### **II. Nehemiah's Plea - Nehemiah 2:1-8**

When Nehemiah came before the king he was still sad because he was thinking about the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down. Now it was a dangerous thing to be sad in the presence of the king. When King Artaxerxes saw that Nehemiah was sad, he asked him why he was sad. Nehemiah was afraid, but he told the king about the walls of Jerusalem. Then the king asked Nehemiah how he could help him. Nehemiah prayed quickly and then asked that he might be sent to Jerusalem to build its walls. The king accepted Nehemiah's plea and sent him to Jerusalem with letters in his hand to prove he was sent by him.

**WE:** We need to pray to God for His help to do small jobs and big jobs. We may think that God is not interested in helping us do little jobs, so we try to do them in our own strength, but we fail to do them as God wanted them done. Then God gives us a big job, but we do not have faith to believe God can help us to it, so we do not even start the job. If we do start it, we quit when the problems get too many and we do not finish the job. God wants us to trust Him and pray for His assistance so He can help us finish to job.

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### III. Nehemiah's Plan - Nehemiah 2:9-10

When Nehemiah got to Jerusalem he looked at the walls of the city. They were badly broken down. Then he met with the leaders of the city and told them how God had put His hand on him and blessed him. He told how the king permitted him to come to Jerusalem to help them build up the walls of the city. It was exciting news for the leaders and they wanted to get at the job right away. It was important in Nehemiah's day that the walls of Jerusalem be built so the city would be safe from its enemies. Nehemiah knew what God wanted him to do and he started to do the job right away. He got others to help him, too.

**WE:** We need to know what God wants us to do. He will tell us, if we sincerely want to serve Him. Then we need a plan, get others to help us if it is a big job, and get started as soon as possible. The sooner we get started, the sooner we can finish the job He has given us.

### IV. Nehemiah's Problems - Nehemiah 4:1-23; 6:1-14

When Nehemiah came to Jerusalem there were certain men who were unhappy that he had come because they were enemies of God's people. These men caused Nehemiah many problems because they wanted to stop the walls from being built. Some of the problems they caused Nehemiah were as follows:

#### A. They mocked the builders - 4:1-6

They laughed at the builders and said their wall was so weak that it would fall down if a fox were to walk on it. Nehemiah gave no answer to them, but he prayed to God and went on building the wall.

#### B. They planned to fight against the builders - 4:7-23

They were going to attack the builders and make them so afraid that they would quit building the walls. Again, Nehemiah gave no answer to his enemies, but he prayed to God and placed guards around the city to watch day and night.

#### C. They tried to hurt Nehemiah - 6:1-4

They asked him to come down to one of their villages to talk with them about his job of building of the walls, but they really planned to hurt Nehemiah – maybe even kill him. Nehemiah saw what their plan was and said, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down."

#### D. They lied about Nehemiah - 6:5-9

They said he wanted to build the walls, so he could become the king of Jerusalem and rebel against the king of Persia. Nehemiah said, "There are no such plans as you say, but you are making them up out of your own heart."

#### E. They lied to Nehemiah - 6:10-14

They hired a Jew, named Shemaiah, to try to persuade Nehemiah to hide in the temple and protect himself from those who wanted to kill him in the night. If Nehemiah had listened to this traitor, it would have shown the people that he was afraid and it would have made the rest of the people afraid. Nehemiah boldly told the traitor that he would not go in the temple to hide. Nehemiah knew that God had not sent him. So Nehemiah finished building the walls of Jerusalem in 52 days (Neh 6:15).

**WE:** We will face problems from God's enemies, too, but when God gives us a job to do, He will help us until we finish the job. Can we trust Him? Satan will use our enemies to laugh at us or to try to make us afraid so that we will stop our work for God. Do not let God's enemies stop you from finishing the work that God has given you to do.

**BE (for Action):** God gave Nehemiah a job and he finished it for Him. God will give you a job, if you truly want to serve Him. It may be a simple job at first, but you will get bigger as you finish each job that He gives to you. Can you think of any job you could do for God? (They might suggest passing out flyers about church services with an adult. It might be witnessing to a friend or inviting their parents to come to church with them.) Are you willing to do one of these jobs for God? If God has given you a job to do and you are ready to do it, raise your hand. We want to pray for you so that you will do a good job for Him and keep doing it until it is finished.