

Class: 4-5 yr olds

Date:

Lesson #: VIII - 7

Text: Nehemiah 1-13

Teacher: Monty & Brenda
Finnell

Memory Verse: Proverbs 30:5-6

Concept development

Obedience ~ Fulfilling prophecy

Lesson

Words to define: _____

Body:

Read the story out of the Childrens Picture Bible. Ask questions ~ What was Nehemiah's job? What did the King notice about Nehemiah? What did the King let Nehemiah do? Who were the people that Jews had to fight while rebuilding the wall?

~ Build a wall with little cardboard boxes, taking turns putting a block on. They had a "sword" and had to

Activities: Fight off the Samaritans while trying to build. (Left the wall up for Wed.)

Questions: _____

Wed. ~ Review, coloring page, and let them glue a small printed up verse of Nehemiah 6:15 onto a block and take it home.

Nehemiah



After the Jewish people had been in exile in Babylon for seventy years, they were at last given the opportunity to return to their homeland. King Cyrus of Persia, who now ruled Babylon, issued a proclamation to the people: "Go back home and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Those who are poor must be given enough money and supplies to make the journey, too." The king gave back all the treasures from the temple which Nebuchadnezzar had stolen. Then he sent them on their way.

They joyfully made the long journey back to Judea. But when they arrived, they looked in horror at what remained of their great city and the beautiful temple of Solomon. There was nothing but piles of rubble and broken remains. What a job they had ahead of them!

Although they worked very hard, the people were overwhelmed at the amount of rebuilding they had to do. Also, they were constantly being hampered by the Samaritans, an unfriendly race of people who now lived nearby. They did not want Jerusalem to be powerful again and did everything possible to stop the building work. After many years of struggle, the temple was finally finished. There was great celebration and praise as the new temple was dedicated to God. Seventy years later, however, the rebuilding of Jerusalem still was not finished. The huge task of reconstructing the walls and making the city gates remained.

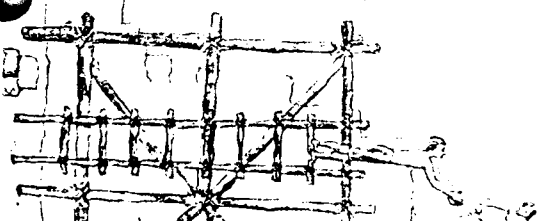
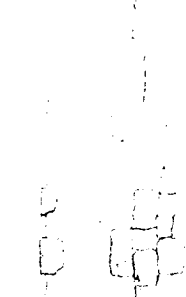
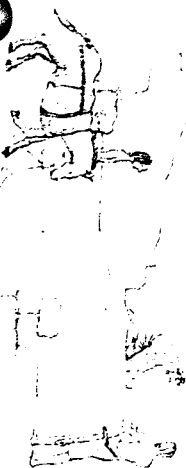
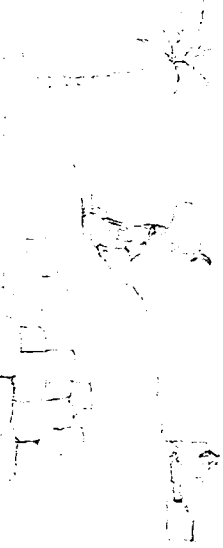
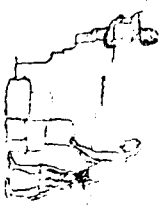
Reports of this reached the Jewish people who remained in Babylon, one of whom was a great man of God named Nehemiah.

Nehemiah was the wine steward to the Emperor Artaxerxes. It was his job to taste the king's wine in case it was poisoned. One day, the emperor noticed that his wine steward was very depressed, and he asked him the reason why. Nehemiah had been praying to God for an opportunity to speak to the king, so he said, "Your majesty, I am sad because the city of my people still lies in ruins." Then he paused and asked, "If it please the king, I would like to go to Jerusalem and help with the rebuilding."

The emperor gave Nehemiah leave to go home. He also gave him money and wood from the royal forest to make the city gates. Then, with an escort of soldiers to protect him on his journey, Nehemiah traveled to Jerusalem.

Nehemiah was amazed when he saw just how much there was to be done. But he encouraged the people and divided them into family groups, giving each group a part of the wall to build. When the dreaded Samaritans threatened to attack again, Nehemiah instructed the people to arm themselves with swords. Then they carried on rebuilding, armed ready for battle. After working night and day for a long time, the work was completed, and Jerusalem was safe.

They all gathered together to hear Ezra read out God's law. They listened hard and promised that this time they would learn from their mistakes, trust in God, and obey him.



Sing this song to the tune of "The Wise Men
built his house upon the rock."

Nehemiah prayed to God for help.

Nehemiah prayed to God for help.

Nehemiah prayed to God for help.

And God did hear his prayers.

Come let's rebuild Jerusalem's wall.

Come let's rebuild Jerusalem's wall.

Come let's rebuild Jerusalem's wall.

And work until it's done.

Nehemiah prayed as the wall was being
built,

Nehemiah prayed as the wall was being
built,

Nehemiah prayed as the wall was being
built,

And Jerusalem was made safe.

The people worshiped and praised the Lord,

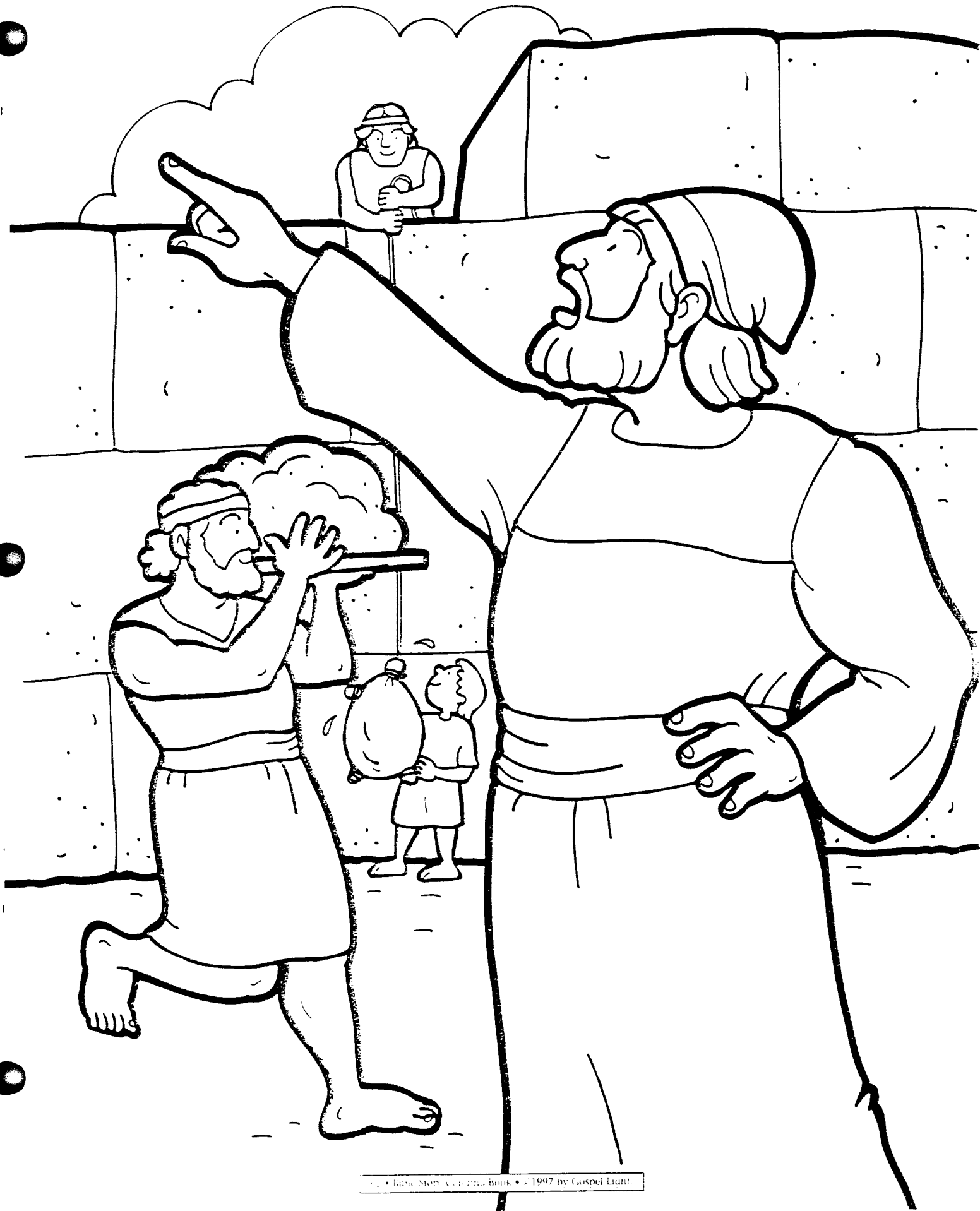
The people worshiped and praised the Lord,

The people worshiped and praised the Lord,

For helping build the wall.

Nehemiah rebuilds the walls.

Nehemiah 2:11—4:23





Ezra and Nehemiah
Nehemiah 2-8