

Nehemiah

What Nehemiah Did:

Nehemiah did not live in the beautiful city of Jerusalem, but he was a great builder. One day, some bad people broke into the city and burned the gate. Many people died or left the city out of fear. Nehemiah found out what had happened and remembered that he had once been to this city. He wanted to help rebuild the desolate city and the king gave him permission to do so. He and his men began cutting timber to rebuild. He talked to the people of the city and told them his plan. He began rebuilding a little at a time. Soon a new gate and new fountains were completed. It wasn't long before the bad people who had destroyed the city found out about what Nehemiah was doing. They came to the city, but Nehemiah helped the people protect their city by giving them weapons and reminding them that God was on their side. They fought off the enemy and their city was once again beautiful.

Find it in the Bible:

There is a whole book in the bible telling his story. The story mentioned above is found at Nehemiah 1.

Memory Verse:

God restores.

Game Ideas:

Building a Wall

Divide the children into two teams. Give each team a variety of dress up construction clothes, such as a hard hat, tool belt and large boots. Give each team a large pile of blocks (bigger blocks work best). On "go" the first child from each team will put on all of the clothing, grab a block and race to the other end of the room. They will start building a wall for their team. After they have placed the first block, they will race back to the team, take off the dress up clothes and the next person will go. Continue until all the blocks are gone, or until one of the team's blocks falls.

Snack Suggestion:

Jerusalem Gate

Give the children graham crackers and frosting to construct a gate for the city. You can even give them large candies and sprinkles to make it beautiful. They can eat this for a snack.

Nehemiah Craft

Build a castle using small boxes. Have the children bring several small empty boxes and cardboard cans (such as Pringle cans, Jell-o boxes, small cereal boxes and oatmeal cans). Have the children help you cover them in brown construction paper. Work together to create a castle. Talk about how difficult it is to build something so large and how Nehemiah needed help and wisdom from God to complete the restoration of Jerusalem.

Suggested Prayer:

Dear Lord, We know that Nehemiah was brave and helped restore the city of Jerusalem. He sought God's word and wisdom even though he was scared.

Amen.