



Session

4



THE WALLS WERE REBUILT

Nehemiah 3–6; 12:27-43

With a plan in place and the people encouraged to begin building, Nehemiah split the people into groups. In an amazing feat of organizational mastery, Nehemiah had 45 sections of wall and 10 gates all being constructed at the same time. It was no small task to rebuild these walls, since the wall around Jerusalem was about 8 feet thick and 40 feet high. Nehemiah and his workforce were up to the task. Unfortunately, not everyone present had the same thing in mind.

Sanballat, the governor of Samaria, which was near Jerusalem, was totally opposed to the rebuilding effort. Sanballat likely knew that if Jerusalem's walls were rebuilt and the city was fortified, it could greatly jeopardize his political influence in Samaria and the surrounding region. Sanballat was afraid and responded in anger. Nehemiah had arrived from Susa with letters from Artaxerxes giving him permission to continue the rebuilding, but even with that Sanballat tried to discourage the building effort. He worked hard to get the other leaders with whom he had influence to join him in his ridiculing the Jews.

In the face of ridicule, Nehemiah responded with prayer. Nehemiah's first thought was to turn to God for help and protection. God protected His people. Instead of tackling the problem on his own, Nehemiah knew that God would fight his battles. When Sanballat realized that Nehemiah was not deterred, he became even angrier and plotted war against Jerusalem. Again, Nehemiah turned to God in prayer asking for God's deliverance from Sanballat and others determined to thwart their progress.

Through the entire process of rebuilding, Nehemiah positioned the people in such a way that the city would be protected while the building continued. Even after the walls' completion, Sanballat tried to intimidate Nehemiah, but Nehemiah trusted that God was faithful. In 52 days, the walls around Jerusalem were complete. God had protected His people.

FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 28, 2020



BIBLE STORY:

Nehemiah 3-6; 12:27-43

BIBLE VERSE:

Psalm 100:4

BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

People worked together. (BT)

Nehemiah led the people to do God's work. (P)

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God protected His people. (YK)

God protected His people. The people trusted God and rebuilt the wall. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Proverbs 4:11-27

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Proverbs 4:26

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Proverbs 12:12-20*

MONDAY: *Proverbs 12:21-28*

TUESDAY: *Proverbs 13:1-14*

WEDNESDAY: *Proverbs 13:15-25*

THURSDAY: *Proverbs 14:1-11*

FRIDAY: *Proverbs 14:12-21*

SATURDAY: *Proverbs 14:22-35*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *Nehemiah* and *Proverbs* together as a family:



- **Motivated to work.** When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and inspected the wall, he knew this was not going to be a small task. Nehemiah organized the people into small groups and gave each group a task to complete. Nehemiah organized around 50 different groups working on different sections of the wall simultaneously. With all the work going on in these areas the people were busy, but other people who lived near Jerusalem did not want the walls around Jerusalem to be finished.
- **Distractions to stop.** While the people worked, Nehemiah was being constantly bombarded by men who wanted to stop the work on the wall. Even though Nehemiah had letters from the king, these men were determined to stop the building project. Nehemiah refused to be deterred even when confronted by one man who threatened intervention from the king. Nehemiah trusted God and knew that God had previously answered his prayer by allowing Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem, so Nehemiah prayed again.
- **Faithfulness rewarded.** Nehemiah knew he was doing God's work, so he relied on God to fight the battles of distraction. Nehemiah assigned men to guard the city while others finished the building. In just 52 days the walls around the city were complete, and Jerusalem was now safe from invasion. Those men who were trying to distract the construction process knew there was nothing more for them to do. God had granted Nehemiah and his workers God's favor to finish the building.
- **Two paths.** Solomon, in *Proverbs 4*, identified two paths all people have to choose from. Like the workers and Nehemiah, one path was to follow God. Like the others trying to distract the workers, the other path was to reject following God. Solomon declared that he wanted what God wanted, which that was for people to follow godly instruction. Solomon showed that the path followed by evil people led to wickedness and actions that would displease God. Like Nehemiah encouraged the workers to remain vigilant in their construction and not get distracted by outside pressure, God calls people to righteous living which calls for a disciplined life. Following God brings people closer to Him and builds their trust and faith in God.