

# The Story at Home

**Timeless Truth:** Nehemiah was sure of God's power. God is on my side.

**Bible Verse:** "Don't be afraid of your enemies. Remember the Lord. He is great and powerful."

Nehemiah 4:14

**Key Passages:** Ezra 7:1, 7, 10-11; Neh. 1:2-6, 11; 4:4-6, 13-23; 8:1-12

**Resources:** *The Story for Children* Ch. 21: "Rebuilding the Walls"



Grades 2/3/4  
Grades 5/6

When Nehemiah learned that God's people were having a hard time he wept. He didn't want God's people to suffer. He wanted them to be safe and protected.

Brainstorm ideas on what you could do to make God's people safer in your area. You could: help people find their classrooms for Sunday School; help elderly people if they have trouble moving; volunteer to help care for babies in the nursery; or shovel snow off the sidewalk.

There are tons of other ideas. Concentrate on ideas that will keep God's people safe, and then ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to make these ideas a reality. You may need to include another family from church or the whole congregation. Dream big. Nehemiah did, and God helped him accomplish his goal quickly!

- In the beginning of this chapter of *The Story*, God's people are making some decisions that go against God's law. Why don't they learn?
- Are there areas of your life where you need constant reminders to follow God's standards?
- Is reminding people through godly role models or writings a new thing or has it been the way God worked with his people for a long time?

Nehemiah was brilliant in getting all of God's people to work together in rebuilding Jerusalem's wall. By working together, they completed the project in 52 days! Before that, the Jews had languished in their attempts to protect and rebuild Jerusalem. King Cyrus first allowed God's people to return to Jerusalem in 560 B.C. Then the second temple was completed in 516 B.C., but for 70 years the city was vulnerable to attack. In fact, many of the surrounding rulers made sure to keep the Israelites weak. But when Nehemiah showed up in 445 B.C., it took just less than two months to secure the walls and give God's people a safe place to live. In all, it took 115 years for God's people to rebuild and fortify Jerusalem. Have your family pretend to be raiders on Jerusalem by playing a classic wall breaker video game. You can go to [www.silvergames.com/game/break-it/](http://www.silvergames.com/game/break-it/) or go to Google and search for "breakout games." See which family member is best at breaking down the walls. Let everybody take a couple of turns and then give a prize to whomever scores the highest.

- **Rebuilding the wall was a big task. God's people got help from a powerful king and were pestered by nearby rulers. To protect his people and still get the work done, Nehemiah told the workers to carry supplies in one hand and a sword in the other. What does that tell you about the working conditions?**
- **Does God want you to be helpful on one hand, and ready for battle with the other? How could you do that in your daily life?**
- **How did Ezra help the Jewish people get back on track with God? Do you think knowing God's Word better would help you, too?**



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