

# BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of February 18, 2018

**Timeless Truth:** God wants us to know and obey him

**Bible Basis:** Nehemiah 2:4-5; 8:10

***The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:***

**Chapter 21** Rebuilding the Walls

**Memory Verse:** “The God of heaven will give us success. We serve him. So we’ll start rebuilding the walls.” Nehemiah 2:20



## TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

**Nehemiah loved God and he loved his city. More than anything he wanted God to be honored by the rebuilding of Jerusalem, so when he heard that it wasn’t going well, he was sad. He didn’t stay sad, he decided to do something about it.**

- Why did the people not finish building the walls?
- How did Nehemiah feel about the wall not being finished?
- What did he do about it? (He prayed to God for help.)
- Tell about a time when you had to complete a really hard job. What made it hard? Why did you want to finish it?
- Were there times you wanted to quit? What did you do?

## EXTRA MILE

**Nehemiah 8:10**

**Is there a task in your home that needs to be completed, but everyone dread? (ie Cleaning out the junk drawer, weeding the side yard, sorting through old clothes to give away.) Tell you family that for 30 minutes you will work together as a family to complete this task. Explain that even though it might not be particularly fun, everyone agrees it needs to be done. Say a prayer before you begin.**

**During the activity be sure to give tasks to younger children that are a little bit too hard for them and see how they handle it.**

**When time’s up call the family back together. Survey the progress you made. Ask if anyone found the job difficult and, if so, how they handled it? (Did they ask for help, pout, give up, pray?) Did knowing that the whole family was working together help?**

**Read Nehemiah 8:10**

**Ask: Where does this verse say we get our strength? The people of Jerusalem were filled with joy when they heard God’s Word and it gave them strength. When we read God’s Word we are filled with strength, too. Share a verse that gives you strength.**

## PRAYER TIME

Dear God, thank you for your life-giving Word. Thank you for our pastors, Sunday school teachers, and small group leaders who help us to read and understand your Word. The more we know you and follow you, the more we are filled with your joy! In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.



# The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

## DAY 1

**Reading:** *Sad News*, Pg 157 through break on pg 159 (blue–pg 173 – break on pg 175) (3 mins)

This reading covers: Ezra 7; Nehemiah 1

**Summary:** Nehemiah is sad when he hears that things in Jerusalem are not good.

**Do together:** Every day we hear about sad things around us. Look at today's local news and see if there is something that makes you sad. Now, see if there is any way you can help with the situation. It might be helping with those who are hungry or children whose families need some help.

**Think about:** Nehemiah was sad because the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and other people were making fun of his friends. But this sadness turned into action, as we will see tomorrow. It's one thing to be sad; it's another thing to do something about it. When you look around, what do you see that makes you sad, something that just isn't right? Now, what are you going to do about it?

Also read: John 13:17; James 2:15-16

**Prayer:** Dear God, sometimes when I look around I see things that make me sad. Help me to not just feel sad, but to do something to help. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## DAY 2

**Reading:** *Keep Working*, break on pg 159 – through break on pg 161 (blue– break on pg 175 – pg 178) (4 mins)

This reading covers: Nehemiah 4

**Summary:** The people kept working, even when others tried to stop them.

**Do together:** Build a wall together. Make sure you don't have enough of one particular item to complete the task. Mom and Dad, help the kids think of other ways to build when you run out of one item. Don't let not having everything you need keep you from completing the project.

**Think about:** Sometimes, when you are trying to do something good, there are obstacles in the way that make it hard to keep going. When that happens, do you just stop? Or, do you look for another way to get the job done? Nehemiah knew that God wanted him to rebuild the walls to the city, so he kept going, even when there were things in the way.

Also read: Proverbs 14:23

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for giving us jobs to do to help you and help others. Keep us moving forward, even if things get difficult sometimes. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## DAY 3

**Reading:** *God's Word*—break on pg 161 - end (blue – break on pg 178- end) (1 1/2 mins)

This reading covers: Nehemiah 8

**Summary:** The building completed, it was time to build their lives on God's Word.

**Do together:** Make a scroll. Take two popsicle sticks and a piece of paper 4" tall and 8" wide. Lay the paper down so it is wide in front of you. Write, "Ezra opened the book," which is found in Nehemiah 8:5. Glue or staple a popsicle stick to each end. Roll each side toward the middle.

**Think about:** Ezra knew that it would take more than buildings and walls to help people look to God. They needed to hear and know his Word. The same is true for us today. It is nice to have a church to attend, but we need to hear and know God's Word. That's why we are doing The Story! Ezra opened the book so the people could hear God's Word. Make sure you open The Story for Kids every day so you can hear God's Word, too.

Read also: Psalm 119:97-104;

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for your Word. Help me to read it every day. Also, help me to take what I learn and live it out. In Jesus' name. Amen.