

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL... GOING DEEPER



Bible Story - Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls (Nehemiah 1-7)

Though today's Bible story may be too long to read together, consider highlighting a few scenes from the story or having the kids read them out in your preferred Bible translation.

In the days of the Bible, a city's walls were a very important thing. Not only did it protect them from their enemies, it signified the city's boundary and identity. The walls of Jerusalem were especially important for Nehemiah because it was 'the special place where God chose to put His Name' (Nehemiah 1:9). Nehemiah knew that the city – and walls – of Jerusalem were more than just buildings and bricks, it was a place where God's presence could be with His people.

Like many other Biblical heroes, Nehemiah did everything by prayer. When he receives the report from his brother about Jerusalem, he fasts and prays before anything else. Even when he speaks to the King, he again prays for the Lord's help (Nehemiah 2:4). Encourage the kids to pray like Nehemiah did.

Nehemiah and the workers faced lots of opposition to the task of rebuilding the walls. They were laughed at, threatened, and bullied throughout the project. But Nehemiah knew that what he was doing was right. He knew that the wall needed to be built, he didn't quit. Instead, Nehemiah prayed, "Make my hands stronger" (Nehemiah 6:9b). He trusted that God would help them finish the work – and He did! Even Nehemiah's enemies realized that God was helping them: "They realized that our God had helped us finish the work" (Nehemiah 6:16b).



Kid Connects:

- What did Nehemiah do when he was nervous about talking to the King?
- How would you have gone about building the wall?
- What do you do when people laugh at you or tell you that you can't do something?