

Church at Home Pack – 10th October 2021

Join us in church for our 10:30am service on Sunday or watch live at home on

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/service-type/sunday-service-online/>

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.

Our verse for the year is the same as last year's verse as we think about the difference being with Jesus makes to our lives

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

Father God

Help us to pray as Nehemiah prayed

Help us to know you as Nehemiah knew you

Help us to plan as Nehemiah planned

Help us serve you as Nehemiah served

Amen

Action reminder –

From the top of my head

(Touch head)

to the tips of my toes;

(Touch toes)

from the lobes of my ears

(Touch ear lobes)

to the end of my nose;

(Touch nose)

from my back, to my front

(Turn round)

to my wiggly fingers,

(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)

God loves me!

(jump up and down)

READ TOGETHER

Nehemiah 2: 4-16



International Children's Bible (ICB)

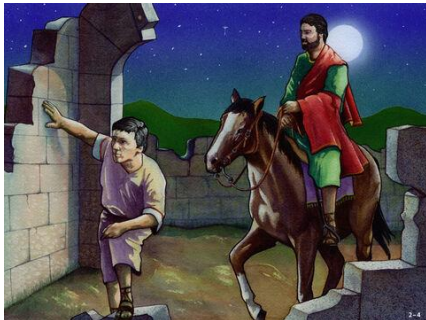
⁴Then the king said to me, "What do you want?"

First I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵Then I answered the king, "Send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried. I will rebuild it. Do this if you are willing and if I have pleased you."

⁶The queen was sitting next to the king. He asked me, "How long will your trip take? When will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me. So I set a time.

⁷I also said to him, "If you are willing, give me letters for the governors west of the Euphrates River. Tell them to let me pass safely through their lands on my way to Judah. ⁸And may I have a letter for Asaph? He is the keeper of the king's forest. Tell him to give me timber. I will need it to make boards for the gates of the palace. It is by the Temple. The wood is also for the city wall and the house I will live in." So the king gave me the letters. This was because God was showing kindness to me. ⁹So I went to the governors west of the Euphrates River. I gave them the king's letters. The king had also sent army officers and soldiers on horses with me.

¹⁰Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite leader heard about this. They were upset that someone had come to help the Israelites.



¹¹I went to Jerusalem and stayed there three days. ¹²Then at night I started out with a few men. I had not told anyone what God had caused me to do for Jerusalem. There were no animals with me except the one I was riding.

¹³It was night. I went out through the Valley Gate. I rode toward the Dragon Well and the Trash Gate. I was inspecting the walls of Jerusalem. They had been broken down. And the gates had been destroyed by fire. ¹⁴Then I rode on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool. But there was not enough room for the animal I was riding to get through. ¹⁵So I went up the valley at night. I was inspecting the wall. Finally, I turned and went back in through the Valley Gate. ¹⁶The officers did not know where I had gone or what I was doing. I had not yet said anything to the Jews, the priests, the important men or the officers. I had not said anything to any of the others who would do the work.

New International Version (NIV)

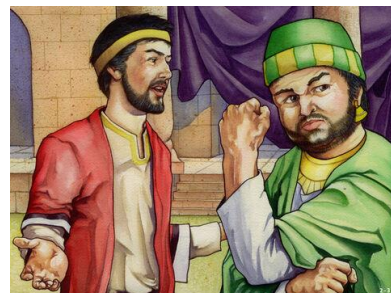
⁴The king said to me, "What is it you want?"

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favour in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it."

⁶Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

⁷I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? ⁸And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests. ⁹So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king’s letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.

¹⁰When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.



¹¹I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days ¹²I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

¹³By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal^[a] Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. ¹⁴Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King’s Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; ¹⁵so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and re-entered through the Valley Gate. ¹⁶The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

WATCH TOGETHER



This video has been included in a previous Church at Home pack but it’s a good reminder of the story so far! ***Nehemiah rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem (Part 1)*** – Bible Heroes of Faith: <https://youtu.be/1ZfXzzS3U-c>



In her sermon, Larissa told us that bees work together to help their colony survive and thrive. ***Bees for Kids*** – Wizz: <https://youtu.be/B2ifMHWYTDk>

READ AND WATCH TOGETHER!

Here is an article with some videos included that talks about the ways in which bees work together and what we can learn from them:

<https://www.treehugger.com/learn-these-ways-bees-work-together-4868486>

TALK TOGETHER

- When you are faced with a problem or difficult situation – what do you do?

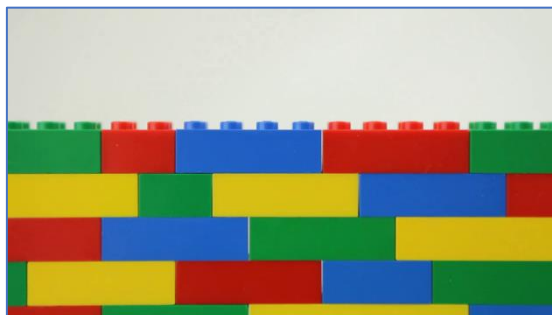
STUDY TOGETHER – *Read Nehemiah 2: 1-16*

- Why was Nehemiah afraid? (v2)
- How do you think the King *could* have responded to Nehemiah's explanation in verse 3?
- Why do you think he responded as he did?
- Have you ever had to ask someone for a lot of help or make a difficult request to someone? How did you approach it?
- How did Nehemiah approach this situation? (v4)
- Throughout the book of Nehemiah we see him turn to prayer – read **1:4, 4:4 and 9, 6:9 and 14** for some examples of this. What does this tell you about Nehemiah?
- How does prayer help Nehemiah with his task?
- Verses 5 – 8 show us that Nehemiah had not only prayed but he had planned carefully, what he would need from the King.
- Nehemiah had confidence in God. He took his problem AND his plans to God in prayer. He prayed for a long time, as we read previously in chapter 1. God returned that confidence in moving the King's heart to give Nehemiah everything he needed. Nehemiah gives God the glory for this at the end of verse 8.
- In verses 9 – 16 we read that although some were unsupportive of Nehemiah's plans, he was able to carry on. When we looked at Chapter 3, a few weeks ago, we saw that the community came together to rebuild the walls, so giving Nehemiah confidence in the call God had placed on his life.
- What can we learn from Nehemiah's relationship with God?
- How is it possible to have confidence that our plans are in line with God's will?

PLAY TOGETHER

Using lego or Jenga bricks build a wall which is good and strong. As you place each brick, think of people in church and what they're good at (talking to people, singing, making drinks, making others welcome, teaching about God, etc.). Our church is made up of lots of different people using the gifts God has given them to show love to each other and to our town.

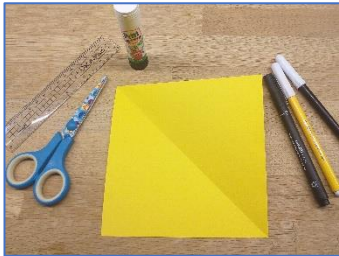
Don't forget about yourself. As you place one of the bricks, think about what God has made you good at and how you could use that to help others.



MAKE TOGETHER

'Bee like Nehemiah' Bookmark!

Larissa used the illustration of bees in a bee colony in her sermon today. To remind us of that and prompt us to learn from Nehemiah's example, why not make a 'Bee like Nehemiah' bookmark. It will fit nicely over the corner of the pages in your Bible and remind you to keep reading, learning and understanding God's word and his plans for your life.



You will need:

A square of paper (yellow if you have it)

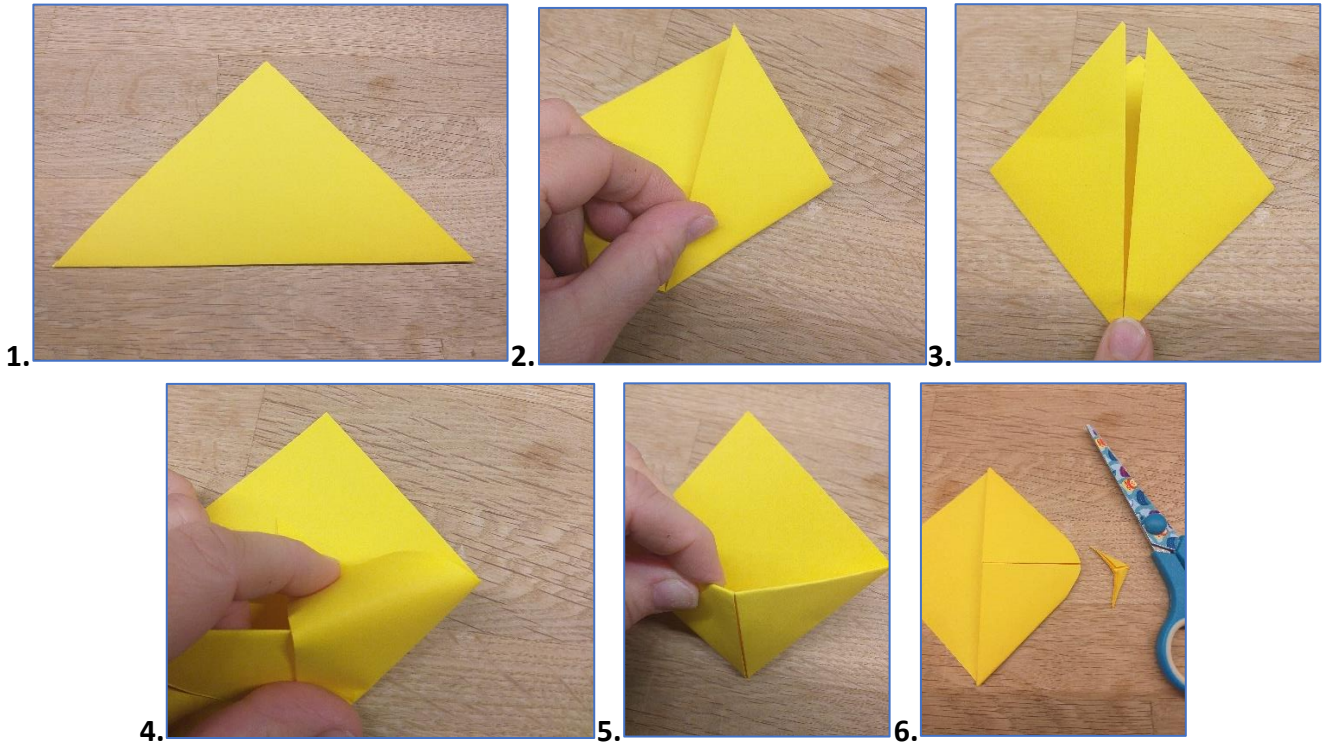
A scrap of white paper

Scissors

Glue

Pens – Black (and yellow if you don't have yellow paper)

Fold the basic corner bookmark by following the pictures below:



Decorate with a face and black (and yellow) stripes. Cut out two 'teardrop' shapes for wings. Decorate them with the words 'Bee like Nehemiah' and stick them to the body of the bee. Once dry, place it over the corner of the pages in your Bible.



SING TOGETHER

Pray about everything (Phil.4:6-7) – Lifetree Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X05FnYbugIs>

Pray at all times – Nick & Becky Drake/Worship for Everyone:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2ZEj_y_BqE

Pray – Sanctus Real: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_J4I4gsvYA

Build this house – Lou Fellingham: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryip0dD1uoo>

REFLECT TOGETHER

Nehemiah didn't just pray and he didn't just act – he did both!

Find a pebble in your garden or from somewhere outside.

Close your eyes and think about the week ahead.

- Are there any difficult situations in your life or the lives of those you love?
- Are there things happening in our town, country or world which you want to bring to God?

Pick up the pebble and imagine it is you. As you pray, hold the pebble up to God and ask him to show you what to do to help make these difficult situations better.



PRAY TOGETHER

In Neh.2:4-5, Nehemiah offers up a silent prayer to God whilst he's talking to the King. As you go about your day, remember that you can talk to God in your mind and he can still hear you.

- When you need help with something – PRAY!
- When you're thankful for something – PRAY!
- When you're feeling lonely – PRAY!
- When you're happy – PRAY!

Prayer based on Nehemiah 2: 4

Heavenly Father, thank You for men of prayer like Nehemiah.

Teach me how to pray without ceasing and to pray effectively.

Help me develop a practice of powerful, prolonged, and effective prayer, and use me in whatever way You choose to carry out Your plans and purposes in my life.

Thank You that Your ear is ever open to my cries, whether they are simple, silent arrow-prayers, or long-term, persistent pleadings, and thank You that I have access to the throne of grace - for mercy to find help in time of need.

Amen

DO TOGETHER

Draw and cut out some large hexagonal shapes which fit together to make a honeycomb wall.

Each day, write the name of someone involved in God's work on one of the shapes. Pray for that person and their part in bringing about God's purposes as you add them to the wall.



family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

Action Reminder taken from

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Prayer based on Nehemiah 2:4 taken and adapted from www.knowing-jesus.com