

Church at Home Pack – 24th 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 –

Teach us, gracious Lord, to begin our works with prayer, to wait patiently in hope, to go on with obedience, to finish them with love, and with cheerful confidence to look to you, whose promises are faithful and rewards infinite.

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

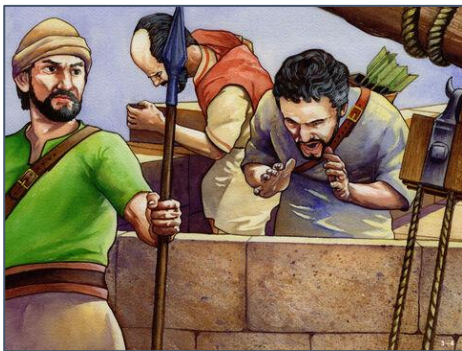
Nehemiah 4: 7-23



International Children's Bible (ICB)

⁷ But Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the men from Ashdod were very angry. They heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls were continuing. And they heard that the holes in the wall were being closed. ⁸ So they all made plans against Jerusalem. They planned to come and fight and stir up trouble. ⁹ But we prayed to our God. And we appointed guards to watch for them day and night. ¹⁰ The people of Judah said, "The workers are getting tired. There is too much dirt and trash. We cannot rebuild the wall."

¹¹ And our enemies said, "The Jews won't know it or see us. But we will come among them and kill them. We will stop the work." ¹² Then the Jews who lived near our enemies came. They told us ten times,



"Everywhere you turn, the enemy will attack us." ¹³ So I put some of the people behind the lowest places along the wall. And I put some at the open places. I put families together with their swords, spears and bows. ¹⁴ Then I looked around. I stood up and spoke to the important men, the leaders and the rest of the people. I said, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord. He is great and others are afraid of him. And fight for your brothers, your sons and daughters, your wives and your homes."

¹⁵ Then our enemies heard that we knew about their plans. God had ruined their plans. So we all went back to the wall. Each person went back to his own work. ¹⁶ From that day on, half my men worked on the wall. The other half was ready with spears, shields, bows and armour. The officers stood in back of the people of Judah ¹⁷ who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand. They carried a weapon in the other hand. ¹⁸ Each builder wore his sword at his side as he worked. The man who blew the trumpet to warn the people stayed next to me.

¹⁹ Then I spoke to the important men, the leaders and the rest of the people. I said, "This is a very big job. We are spreading out along the wall. We are far apart. ²⁰ So wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, assemble there. Our God will fight for us."

²¹ So we continued to work. Half the men held spears. We worked from sunrise till the stars came out. ²² At that time I also said to the people, "Let every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night. They can be our guards at night. And they can be workmen during the day." ²³ Neither I, my brothers, my men nor the guards with me ever took off our clothes. Each person carried his weapon even when he went for water.

New International Version (NIV)

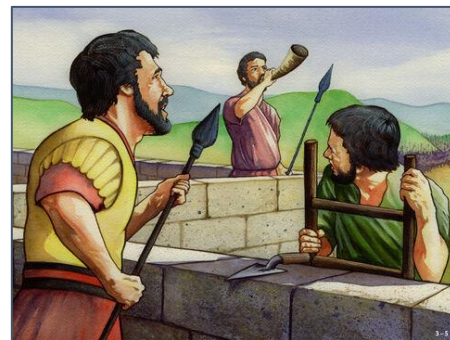
⁷ But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. ⁸ They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. ⁹ But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

¹⁰ Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.” ¹¹ Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.” ¹² Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”

¹³ Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. ¹⁴ After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work. ¹⁶ From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armour. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah ¹⁷ who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, ¹⁸ and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

¹⁹ Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. ²⁰ Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!” ²¹ So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. ²² At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay



inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.” ²³ Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

WATCH TOGETHER



Nehemiah in 6 minutes – Pastor Landon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJokkRQ1eBk>

This is an overview of the whole book but it includes today’s section at about 1 minute in



The story of Nehemiah – *What’s in the Bible?*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uWtmvDvs3k>

TALK TOGETHER

- How do you feel when people don't support what you are doing or are against you?
- What motivates you to keep going and complete what you've started?

STUDY TOGETHER

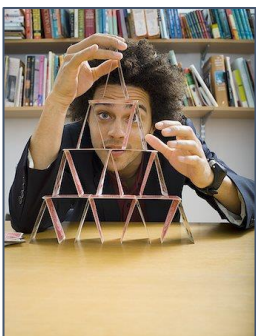
It isn't long after Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem to survey the damage to the walls and begin work on the repairs that he is met with opposition and threats from enemies who want to ruin his efforts. Two men, named Sanballat (the governor of Samaria) and Tobiah (the governor of the region east of the Jordan River), soon join forces to harass the people in their work. Nehemiah refuses to allow them to discourage him, and when these enemies see the wall is half finished, they take it upon themselves to gather an army to attack the workers. Staying on task requires Nehemiah to persevere in these trials – the same is required of us when facing opposition and barriers.

Read Nehemiah 4: 1-23

- How did Sandballat and Tobiah initially try to discourage the people's rebuilding effort?
- How did Nehemiah respond to their ridicule (v4-5)
- How did Nehemiah respond when their enemies banded together to fight them?
- What other problems did Nehemiah face in building the wall (v10)?
- What was wise about the plan Nehemiah came up with to protect the people whilst continuing to rebuild the wall?
- What can we learn about God from this passage?
- How can persevering in a trial – even if you don't receive the outcome you want – serve to strengthen your relationship with God?
- How can persevering demonstrate to those around you your complete trust in God?
- How could you encourage a friend who feels like giving up?
- In his 'Sermon Snippet' Tom said that the way Nehemiah tackles this situation has lots to tell us. He 'prays as if everything depends on God and works as if everything depends on him' – How can we develop an attitude like Nehemiah's?

PLAY TOGETHER

Perseverance against the odds



Set a challenge which each person has to complete within 2 minutes. It might be building a house out of a deck of cards or standing up as many dominoes as possible. Take it in turns to do the challenge and everyone else is allowed to try and distract the person. You can't touch the person doing the challenge or take away their cards or dominoes.

Who does the best at staying focused and persevering?

MAKE TOGETHER

Build an edible wall!



This is a recipe for **Marshmallow Crispy Treats** that you can cut into 'bricks' and use to build an edible wall! The mixture is very sticky! As you stir the sticky mixture think about how Nehemiah kept going no matter how 'sticky' (difficult) the situation. When they have cooled and you have made your bricks, talk about how Nehemiah kept going and think about how you can keep going when things get 'sticky'. As you eat your wall, thank God that he is there to help in the 'sticky' times!

You will need:

20 x 30cm tin – buttered

50g Butter

200g Marshmallows

150g Puffed Rice Cereal (eg. Rice Krispies)

1. Melt the butter in a large saucepan over a low heat. Add the marshmallows and stir until melted and well blended. Cook for 2 more minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat.
2. Add the puffed rice cereal to the melted marshmallow and stir well until coated.
3. Use a buttered spatula or some greaseproof baking paper to press the mixture evenly into the buttered tin.
4. Leave the mixture to cool and set. Then cut into square or rectangle 'bricks'
5. If you want to build a wall with your 'bricks' you can use chocolate spread or jam as cement!

You might like to make them into Lego bricks by adding icing and sweets on top, such as M&M's!



SING TOGETHER

Do not give up - Kidspring Children's Ministry: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJ6JQEPADsA>

Pray at all times – Nick & Becky Drake/Worship for Everyone:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2ZEj_y_BqE

Do it again – Elevation Worship: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0B_InQITxU

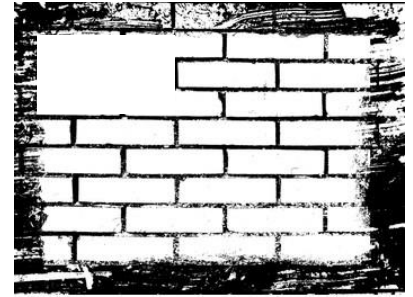
We will not be shaken – Brian Johnson/Bethel Music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KHPIZOdrjI>

I'm gonna live so God can use me – ykmusic ministry: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5u3lcK1AI>

REFLECT TOGETHER

Don't be afraid – remember the Lord!

Draw a wall of bricks on a piece of paper. In some places leave holes in the wall as if it's broken and in need of repair.



- Look at the places where the wall is complete. Those are the places where things are going well in your life and you feel like you've succeeded with God's help. Thank God for that.
- Look at the places where the wall is broken down. Those are the places where you feel like you're under attack and life is a struggle. Read these words from Nehemiah 4:14

Don't be afraid... Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome"

Ask this great and awesome God for help to keep going and think about what you can practically do to help yourself and the others affected by that situation.

PRAY TOGETHER

Father God

We know that when we experience troubles, we should turn to you.

We know that persevering through troubles can strengthen our character.

Help us to turn to you. Help us to stand firm.

May our lives be a model of faithfulness to you.

Amen

Lord Jesus, when we are faced with difficult choices,

help us to be wise.

When there are many opinions and different voices,

help us to be wise.

When we don't know the right thing to do,

help us to be wise.

When we face opposition for following you,

help us to be wise.

In seeking your face and keeping you near,

help us to be wise.

Amen.

DO TOGETHER

Barriers and Opposition – Give it to God



Make a pile of pebbles. Pebbles are hard. The opposition and barriers we face in life are hard.

Each time you come up against a barrier or opposition this week, take a pebble from the pile. Hold it in your hand. Just as Nehemiah did, ask God to help. Then as a symbol of giving it to God, remove the pebble from the pile.

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*Action Reminder, Play Together and Pray Together taken or adapted from
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Study Together (and prayer) taken and adapted from Life Lessons from Nehemiah by Max Lucado
Gather Together prayer adapted from Parish Prayers (1967) ed. Frank Colquhoun*