

**Kids Camp California 2017
Teen Workbook**



*Nehemiah: Let us
rise up and build*

Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

PREFACE

Nehemiah is one of our favorite Bible heroes. He was such a faithful man! He was so brave (because he trusted in Yahweh), and he was a man of action. He didn't see problems, cry about them, and complain that nothing was happening! He saw problems (and sometimes cried about them), and then DID something about it. It is exciting to read about his work for God, and the way God used him to rebuild his chosen city.

We found this quote from Uncle Ron Abel (who sleeps awaiting the resurrection) to be better than any summary we could come up with:

"The hot Palestinian summer, a time of famine in the land, and men whose occupations as goldsmiths, perfumers, priests and nobles, would afford little preparation for the arduous work of wall building – the height of which was 200 feet in places! There would be many blistered hands, aching muscles and sun-baked lips. Against implacably hostile adversaries, half-hearted brethren and avaricious Jews, the circumstances were ideal for character building. The fire of trial was testing the building of Eliashib, the high priest, Meremoth, Meshullam, the nobles and other workmen. It revealed the hay, wood and stubble to be consumed as well as the gold, silver and precious stones that would endure [1 Cor. 3:12,13]. The walls, which were rebuilt and repaired, crumbled under Gentile invaders only a few years later. God was not so much concerned with the completion of the walls in 52 days as with the kind of building each was doing – the kind of characters being fashioned by the trials of the times. From the divine point of view the wall-builders were in a divine university and trial was the examination for passing or failing.

May it be the lot of you, the students of Nehemiah, to build your walls with gold, silver and precious stones which will endure the fire of divine trial in the day when 'the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is'....May the 'joy of Yahweh be your strength' and may He remember you for good. 'Let us arise and build!' ". (Nehemiah, CSSS)

Useful Resources:

- KJV Bible
- Other Bible Versions
- Strong's Concordance
- Treasury of Scripture Knowledge
- Bible Dictionaries and Maps
- The Story of the Bible – Volume 4&5 (Logos Publications)
- Nehemiah – Ron Abel

Marking Sheet

This page is reserved for your counsellor, who will be reviewing and marking your workbook.

Overall Comments

Workbook Completed? _____

Project Completed? _____

The following questions were not completed or need more work. Please finish them, and return to your counsellor. Let your teacher or counsellor know if you need help.

Question	Comments	Done

DIFFERENT TYPES OF QUESTIONS IN THIS WORKBOOK

OT Question

These questions are for the Older Teens, though if you're a younger teen and you would like to answer them, go for it 😊.



These questions involve some Bible Marking. Follow the instructions in the question.

Personal Character Checkpoint

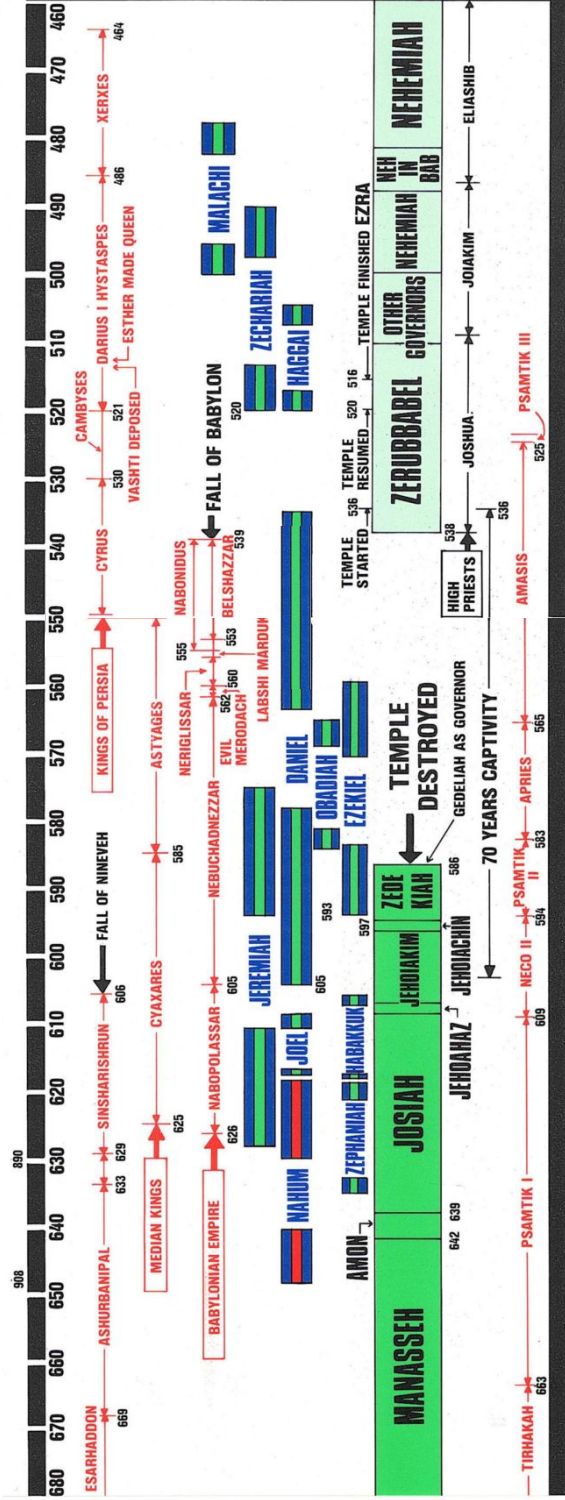
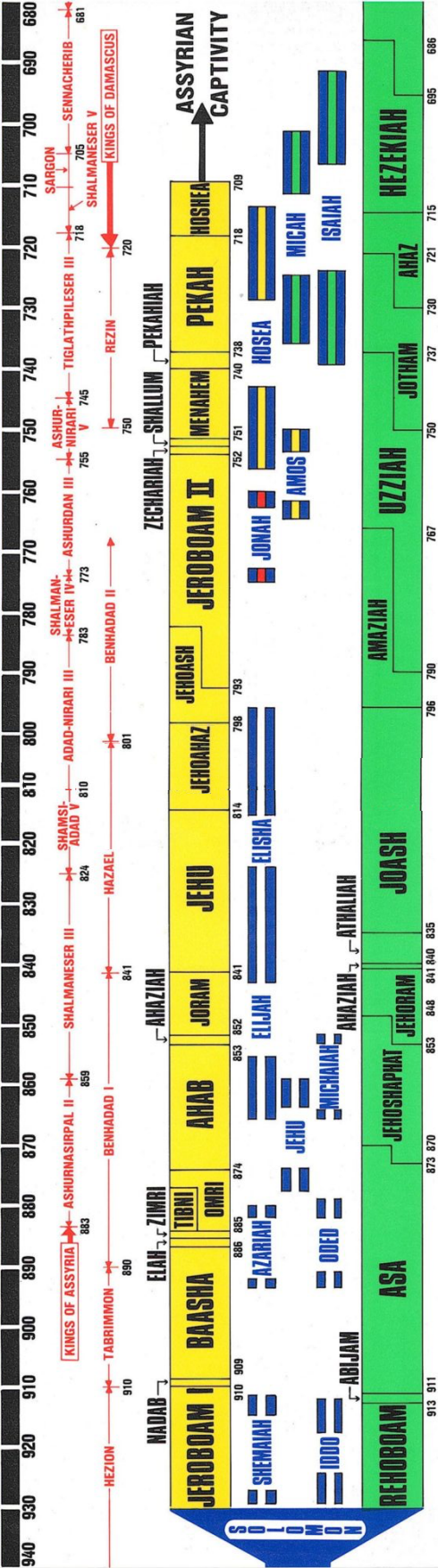


Use these questions to think about how the story relates to your life or your character. The word of God is meant to help mold and change us into proper servants of God. Checkpoints along the way are helpful.

THOUGHT QUESTION: There's no right or wrong answer for these – we're just asking you to think about the situation and answer accordingly.

RESEARCH QUESTION: These questions will take a little longer to answer, and will involve other resource materials like Bible Dictionaries.

THE KINGS AND PROPHETS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH



KEY

- 940 Years B.C.
- Nations around Israel
- Kings of Judah
- Kings of Israel
- Prophets (no book)
- Prophets to Nations
- Prophets to Israel
- Prophets to Judah
- Judah after Captivity

background

The book of Nehemiah takes place in the period after the people of God are exiled in Babylon. Many had been sent back to Jerusalem before the time of Nehemiah. The book of Ezra outlines this time period and goes hand in hand with the book of Nehemiah, so it is helpful to look briefly at Ezra first.

1. The great events of the Jewish return from exile in Babylon begin with the remarkable decree of Cyrus, the king of Persia. One version of the events is given in Ezra 1:1-4. Where is the parallel account of this found?



2. Isaiah prophesied about Cyrus and what he would do about 200 years before he became king. The prophecy is found in Isaiah 44:28-45:5. List several interesting points concerning the way God refers to Cyrus in Isaiah.

3. Ezra 1:1 tells us that God stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, the king of Persia. What did God stir up Cyrus to do? How does Proverbs 21:1 relate? Name a recent world event from the past year in which it is evident that God influenced a world leader or event.

4. Who else did God stir up in Ezra chapter 1? What did he stir them to do?

5. It is possible that God used a man to stir up the spirit of Cyrus. That man was an exile in Babylon and had great influence on foreign kings. Who would that have been? Give a verse to prove your answer.

6. In Ezra 1:3-4 some of the exiles were instructed to return to Jerusalem. What were those that didn't return asked to do? What principle does this teach?

7. According to Ezra chapter 3:1-2 who were the Jewish leaders who oversaw the building of the altar and the construction of the temple? In which chapter does Ezra first show up in the book that bears his name?

8. If you were returning to Jerusalem what would you build first – the walls of the city or the temple? What did they the leaders build first? What lesson does this teach?

9. How long did it take them to rebuild the temple? Compare Ezra 6:15 to Haggai 1:14-15. This period does not include the years when the work was stopped because of opposition. For bonus marks, find out what year they started to build and how long the work was stopped for.

Contemporary Prophets

10. Sometimes as we're growing and learning about the scriptures, we don't realize how connected the whole Bible is, and that things in the Bible didn't take place exactly in the order we have the books of the Bible (it's not in chronological order). Look at the timeline provided for you on page five of this workbook. (You may need an adult to help you figure out how to read it). What three prophets (that have books in the Bible named after them) were writing around this time of the Jews returning from Babylon, and Ezra and Nehemiah?

So now when we do the readings and read through these three books, we realize they're not just random, but they were written to encourage (and scold) the Jews including Ezra and Nehemiah! This will probably help you understand them a little better.

11. It says in Ezra 6:14 that “the elders of the Jews builded and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah”. The opposition of the people of the land had brought the work on the temple to stop. God sent two prophets to stir up the people. They were very active during the 2nd year of Darius. Through their encouragement, the work on the temple began again!

Look up the following references and write down the day and the month of the prophecy as well as which prophet was speaking.

2nd Year of Darius

Reference	Month	Day	Prophet
Haggai 1:1-11			
Haggai 1:12-15			
Haggai 2:1-9			
Zechariah 1:1-6			
Haggai 2:10-19			
Haggai 2:20-23			
Zechariah 1:7-6:8			

12. List a 4 or 5 points about how Haggai and Zechariah encouraged and/or reprimanded the people.

nehemiah one

Chapter Summary: In this chapter, Nehemiah receives a report about the desolate state of Jerusalem. This affects him greatly, prompting a period of four months during which Nehemiah prays to God, and beseeches Him for help in his plans to rebuild Jerusalem.

1. The very first verse of Nehemiah provides us with a lot of helpful information. Fill in the following:

WHO (author): _____

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____

2. We are told a year, but within the verse itself, we have no idea what this year relates to. Using clues from the chapter, and from the context of the book of Nehemiah, explain (with your proof verses), what it means by the "20th year".

3. Who was Nehemiah's father? What does his name mean according to Strong's Concordance?

4. Who was Nehemiah's brother?

5. Nehemiah was given a report from Jerusalem. As we looked at in the background section, we saw that the Jews had been in captivity in Babylon for 70 years, as God had prophesied. Now we see that some are back in the land. When did that happen? How many years before the book of Nehemiah would the first Jews have returned?

6. Describe what Nehemiah was told about the state of Jerusalem. Using your centre margin, or a Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge (TSK), find the scriptural reference that describes these things taking place.

7. What was Nehemiah's reaction to the news?

8. This news prompted a prayer from Nehemiah. There are many examples in scripture of people whose first reaction when in great distress is to turn to God. List as many people as you can think of that showed the same faith in God by turning to Him in prayer. (Include references too!)

There are many similarities between the prayer of Nehemiah, and the prayer of Daniel in Daniel 9. List them here:

Nehemiah 1	Daniel 9

When in Israel's history did Daniel's prayer take place?

9. When prayers are recorded in detail in scripture, we should take note. Sometimes it can be daunting to approach the Creator of the earth in prayer. We can learn so much by the examples of prayer that we are given. In point form, outline what Nehemiah covers in his prayer. We've started you off with the first couple of points:

- Praise to God
- Prayer for Jerusalem, the city of God

10. One thing to note is that Nehemiah didn't launch right into what he was asking for. Often when we pray in distress, all we can think about is how God can help us. Nehemiah recognized his place before God, and he recognized that he was a sinner before God. He also recognized that what they were experiencing as a people was a direct result of their own mistakes. He didn't blame God for "being unfair". He also didn't blame the "other Jews". He identified himself with the sin.



Circle, highlight, or underline the words that show that Nehemiah identifies himself with the sins of his people. (For example: "We")

Personal Character Checkpoint



11. Life can be hard sometimes, and at times it feels like God must be against us because nothing is going right. That is when you should stop and consider what is going on in your life. Are you on the right Spiritual track? Have you made good choices (according to Biblical principles) or are you going against God, but expecting smooth sailing? Using a concordance, find some verses that tell us that when we are serving God he is with us, but if we are not serving Him, he is not.

12. **THOUGHT QUESTION:** Sometimes when we look at examples like this, we tend to think that if we're not serving God things will be difficult, but if we ARE serving God, things will all go smoothly. Do you think this is the case? Why or why not? Find verses to support your answer.

13. In v.11 we read what Nehemiah was asking for. What was it, and what did he mean by it?

14. **RESEARCH QUESTION:** Using Bible dictionaries, and ancient history resources, find what you can about the job of a cupbearer during the time of Babylonian and Persian rulers. Write what you find here:



nehemiah two

Chapter Summary: (We gave you an example of this in Chapter One. For the rest of the workbook, please write your own chapter summary in the box at the beginning of the section.)

1. We're given another time stamp on the story. What is it? How many months had Nehemiah been preparing for his request to the king?
2. What is the other name for the month Nisan? What feast was celebrated in this month? Why do you think that might be significant for Nehemiah?
3. **THOUGHT QUESTION:** Try to imagine what Nehemiah was doing/thinking for all that time.

8. What seemingly random piece of information does v.6 give us? Who might this queen be? Why do you think so?

9. Look up Ezra 6:6 & 7:21. Why do you think Nehemiah was requesting letters from the king?

10. The king's reaction was very positive, and v.8 tells us why. Using the book "The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge" (TSK), find at least two cross references about God's influence with rulers and their decisions.

11. What phrase in v.8 shows us that Nehemiah attributed any success he had to God?

12. In America recently, many people have shown concern over the new President. What scriptural passages should be a comfort to us? We have actually seen evidence that God could very well use this person to bring about his will. If you don't already know how that is, ask an adult about it, and outline below how you think God could use the new President for His ultimate purpose.

13. What had the king sent with Nehemiah to Jerusalem? Look up Ezra 8:21-23. What is the contrast between the two? What can this teach us about working with others in the ecclesia? (When looking at the two men's different approaches to the same concern.)

14. Look up Isa. 58:9-14. In these verses you will find some Bible echoes to Nehemiah. Write as many as you can find here:

15. Early on, we are introduced to two great enemies of Nehemiah. Who were they?

16. Look up the meanings of the names in a concordance:

Sanballat: _____

Tobiah: _____

What is interesting about these names? (Compared to a notorious enemy like Jezebel, whose name meant: "Baal exalts" or "Unchaste")

17. Sanballat was a Horonite. There are two possible cities he could be from – one is Beth-horon, which was in Samaria, and another is Horonaim, a city in Moab. Look up Deut. 23:3-6. What did God say about the Ammonites and Moabites? Why did He curse them? (It is interesting to see God's different approach to Edomites and Egyptians in v.7-8) How would this relate to Sanballat and Tobiah?

18. Similar accusations were made against Christ (Luke 23:1-3) as are made against Nehemiah and the people. What was that accusation? What other similarities can you find?

We learn a great deal from Nehemiah as an excellent spiritual leader of the people. We have already seen from his prayer that he was very familiar with God's word, and showed a great love and respect for God in his actions. From the outside, and to the average person that maybe wasn't as familiar with scripture, it may have looked like Nehemiah was treating Sanballat and Tobiah harshly. After all, their very names suggested that they were followers of Yahweh! Sometimes in ecclesial life, the leaders of the ecclesia may make decisions about people or activities based on scriptural principles. We may not understand, claiming that the people are "so nice", or the activity "is harmless". Let us learn to trust that the leaders are making decisions based on a solid understanding of the Word, and with prayer to God.

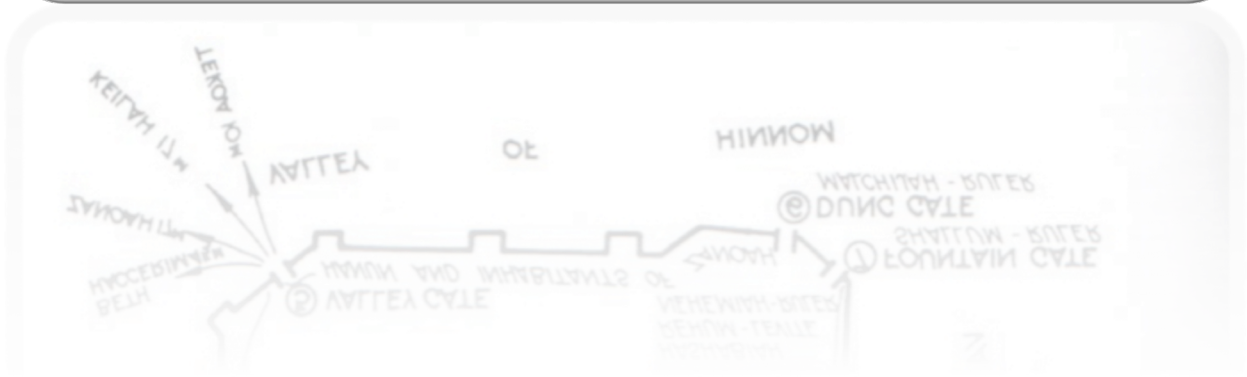
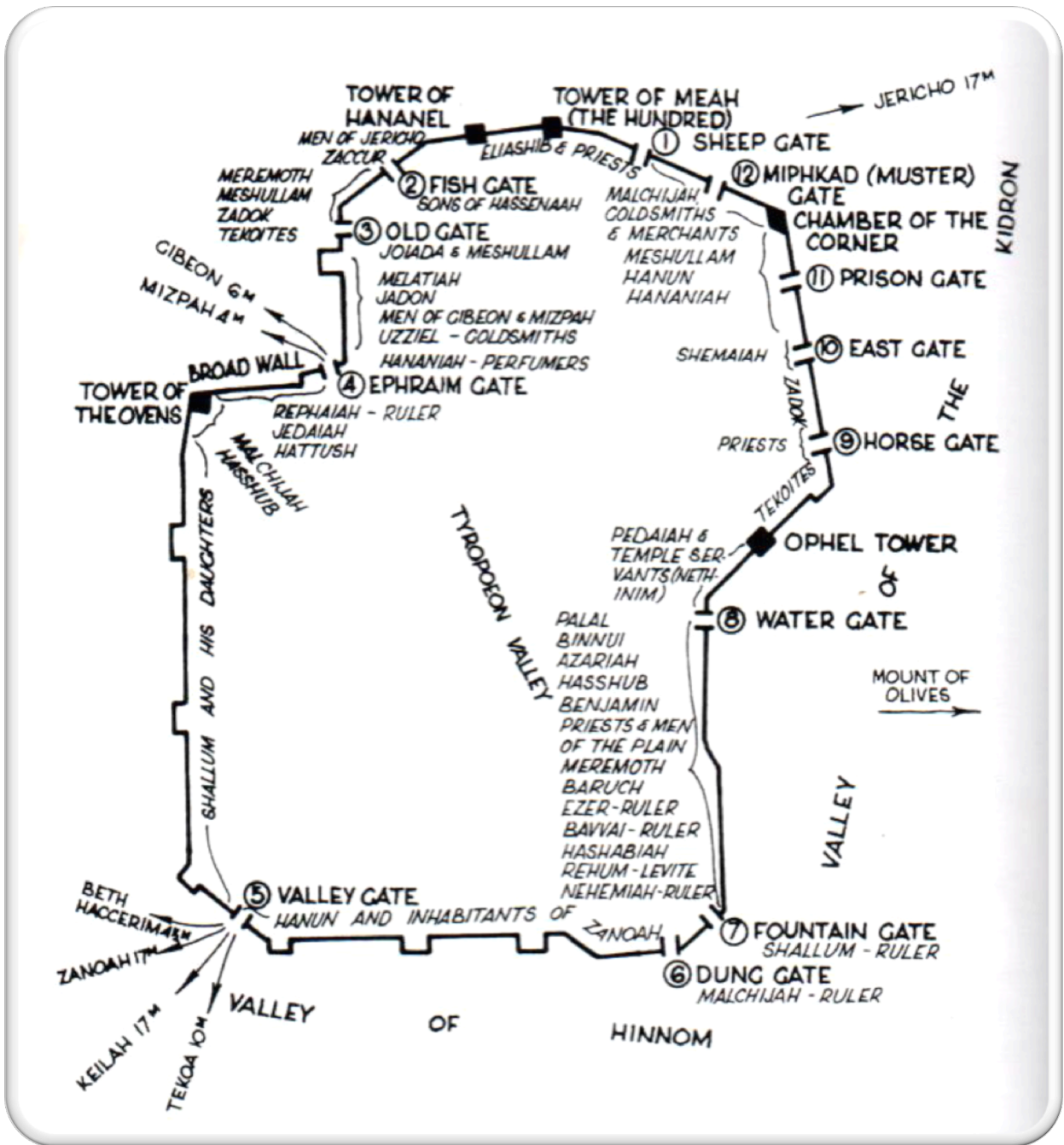
19. What were their reactions to Nehemiah's plan?

**Personal Character
Checkpoint**



20. Nehemiah was a very wise leader. We can learn many things from him. Notice that he takes a few days before going around the walls, and then he quietly went around the wall deciding what would need to be done. It wasn't until he had a plan in place that he called the rulers together. Think of a situation in which you could use this example in your own life, and explain here.





Though chapters full of names in scripture can be daunting and boring, we can often find lessons hidden within the verses. We're going to look at some of those from Chapter 3.

2. List all of the occupations (or positions) of those who helped repair the wall. What lesson does this teach?

3. Notice the repetition of the phrase "next unto him". What do you think is the significance of this?

4. Who is the very first person mentioned in Chapter 3? _____ Now read v. 20 & 21. What do you notice about these verses? (Compare them to verses like v.10,23,28 and 29).

What does this suggest about Eliashib? (Look up Matt 13:20,21, and explain any comparisons that you might see).

5. We find out later in the account of Nehemiah that Eliashib truly was like the stony ground of the parable of the sower. Look up Nehemiah 13:4-9 & 28. Explain what we learn in these verses about Eliashib.

6. Another person we read about in Chapter 3 is Meremoth (v.4.) Look up the following verses, and note what Meremoth was involved with:

Ezra 8:33 –

Neh 10:5 --

Neh 12:3 –

7. Meshullam (v.4) provides another example of how lessons can be learned when we examine the scriptures closely. He was a priest who repaired two sections of the wall, yet later, what does he do? (Nehemiah 6:17-19)

8. In v. 5, we read of the Tekoites. It says (finish the verse): "And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but

_____.

What do you think it means to not put your neck to something?

9. Look up the word "Nobles" in Strong's. What does it mean?

10. Look up Matthew 23:3,4. What group of people is Jesus talking about? What about these verses reminds you of the nobles of Tekoa?

The Tekoites really showed their dedication despite the nobles not working. They even repaired two sections of the wall.

11. The state of a city wall can be an indication of our spiritual wellbeing. What do the following verses tell us about our spiritual state when walls are in disrepair?

Prov. 24:30-32:

Prov. 25:28:

12. What do the following verses tell us about those who build up the ecclesial walls?

1 Cor. 3:9-15:

1 Pet. 2:5-7:

nehemiah four

Chapter Summary:

1. Who was with Sanballat outside of the city gates? What does this tell you about Sanballat's mindset?
2. Put the taunts of Sanballat and Tobiah in your own words.
3. Despite the negative comments, and the intimidating prospect of an army sitting outside the broken walls of Jerusalem, the people were able to continue working. They even got the wall built half way up! What does Nehemiah tell us was the reason for this? (v.6)

4. This is a great contrast to the Nobles who put not their necks to the work! Our minds are very powerful in our service to God. Using a concordance, find some verses that show us what state our minds must be in if we hope to please our Father, and how we can “transform them” (hint, hint) to be more likely to choose the right things.

5. Can you think of some examples in the life of a Christadelphian young person where they might suffer the same type of persecution that Nehemiah did?

6. List at least 5 verses from scripture that tell us how to deal with reproach and ridicule in our lives. (Hint: 1 Pet. 4:14)

Personal Character Checkpoint



7. This chapter becomes more clear when read from another translation. Now that the enemies of the Jews could see that their taunts were having no effect, and that the Jews were succeeding, they were ready to kill. Sometimes when we see someone succeeding at something, we might be the type of person that tries to discourage them with words. But if that doesn't work, we start to get angry. Once we start getting angry, if we don't let the feelings go, we will start to go too far. Has this ever happened to you? When you see someone doing the right thing for God when perhaps you are personally struggling, what is your reaction? Does it ever make you feel angry? Do you try to sabotage their efforts? What would be a better way to deal with these feelings? (You don't need to write anything down – just think about it for yourself, and make some changes if necessary)

8. Sanballat and his army decided they would fight and try to stop the building of the wall. What did the Jews do in response? (It is a two-part response written in one sentence).

-
-

9. We learn a very important lesson about how to deal with problems from this. Of course, our first action should always be to _____. But notice that the people didn't just leave it at that, but they watched. Using a concordance, look up the word "watch". Write some of the verses here that would be applicable to us in this day and age.



Write the same references in your margin beside v. 9.

10. What effect did all of this negativity have on the workers?

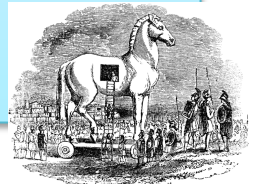
11. V.11 reads: "And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease." What was the next plan of Sanballat and his Confederation?

12. This new tactic was a very smart one, because history shows us that this is the best way to break something down, either morally or physically (see note at side of page) This is an especially important tactic to understand and be aware of, because it is exactly how the Truth can be torn apart. This happened in Israel's history in the time of Balaam (Num. 22-24)

Jesus warns us of this when he says in Matthew 7:15: "Beware of false prophets,

Trojan horse, huge hollow wooden horse constructed by the Greeks to gain entrance into Troy during the Trojan War. The horse was built by Epeius, a master carpenter and pugilist. The Greeks, pretending to desert the war, sailed to the nearby island of Tenedos, leaving behind Sinon, who persuaded the Trojans that the horse was an offering to Athena (goddess of war) that would make Troy impregnable. Despite the warnings of Laocoön and Cassandra, the horse was taken inside the city gates. That night Greek warriors emerged from it and opened the gates to let in the returned Greek army. The story is told at length in Book II of the Aeneid and is touched upon in the Odyssey. The term Trojan horse has come to refer to subversion introduced from the outside. Beginning in the late 20th century, the name "Trojan horse" was applied to deceptively benign computer codes that seem like legitimate applications but are written to damage or disrupt a computer's programming or to steal personal information.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Trojan-horse>



which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." The Apostle Paul warned the elders of the Ephesian ecclesia of the same thing in Acts 20:29: "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Look up both of these passages, and read the context (the verses around them). Explain how Jesus and Paul tell us we can deal with this type of problem.

Jesus' advice:

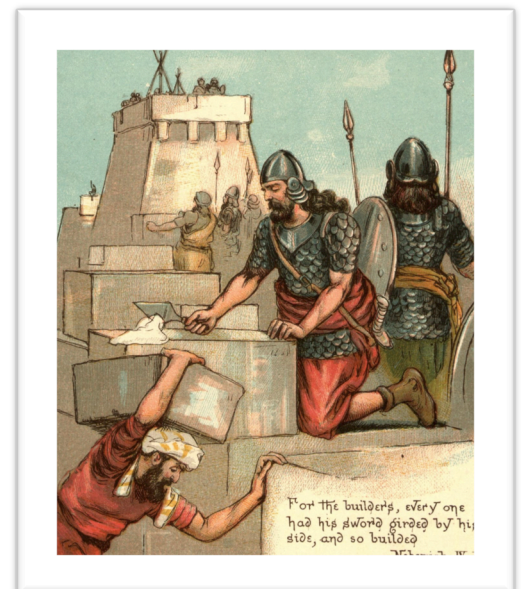
Paul's advice:

13. How did Nehemiah become aware of the plan?

14. How were the builders of the wall feeling?

15. In v.14, Nehemiah exhorts the people "Be not ye afraid of them..." This is an echo to Num. 14:1-9. Nehemiah is quoting whose words? What is similar about the circumstances?

16. In Deut. 20:1-4 God instructs Israel to recite similar words when faced with a battle. In this passage who was to deliver the message? Who would that have fallen to in Nehemiah's day?



17. God will always be there to help us through any troubles we face. He has promised this and he always keeps his promises. However, we cannot stand idly by and expect God to just fix everything himself. Like Nehemiah and his fellow builders, we must do our part to solve the problem. What steps did Nehemiah and the Jews take when they were troubled?

a)

b)

c)



18. Look at vv.14,15,20. Who does Nehemiah attribute their safety to?
Underline the references to God in those verses.

NEHEMIAH SHOWED GREAT FAITH BY TRUSTING IN GOD AND CONTINUING TO BUILD THE WALL. SOMETIMES, WHEN WE CHOOSE TO DO SOMETHING FOR GOD AND IT BECOMES DIFFICULT, WE CAN FOOL OURSELVES INTO THINKING THAT PERHAPS THE DIFFICULTIES ARE GOD'S WAY OF TELLING US TO STOP WHAT WE'RE DOING. YET, OFTEN, THE OPPOSITE IS THE CASE: GOD IS BUILDING OUR CHARACTERS AND TESTING US TO SEE IF WE WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE AND WORK FOR HIM DESPITE THE CHALLENGES. THERE WAS A LOT MORE BEING BUILT IN THIS STORY THAN JUST A PHYSICAL WALL!

nehemiah five

Chapter Summary

1. What was the complaint that the Jews brought to Nehemiah? (Look up vv.1-5 in a different version if that helps)

2. What was Nehemiah's reaction? List some verses in the Law that show us why he would be so disappointed with the nobles and rulers. (Hint: look up the word "usury" in a concordance). What is usury? (A more modern word for that is "Interest")

3. We see in v.11 that when the rulers were told to return what they had taken, they were told to restore the 100th part of the money. The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (TSK) tells us: " This was probably the rate of interest which they obliged their poor debtors to pay each month, which would amount to about 12%". Did you know that you can apply Math word problems that you learn in school to Bible Study?!?! Here's one for you: If the interest rate charged by the nobles and rulers was 12% per year and you borrowed \$100, how much money would you owe after 1 year? after 5 years?

4. What did Nehemiah tell the nobles and rulers to do? What was their reaction?

Personal Character Checkpoint



5. Because of our human nature, we will often fall into sin, even when we are feeling strong in the truth, and are surrounding ourselves with Godly people, and participating in the ecclesial work. What lessons can we learn from how Nehemiah dealt with the problem and how the rebuked nobles reacted?

6. How many years in total did Nehemiah govern the Jews?

7. What good example did Nehemiah set for the nobles during this time?

8. Can you think of another servant of God in scripture who followed the same principles as Nehemiah by paying for his necessities? Provide a couple of references to back up your answer. (Hint: New Testament!)

9. In v.15, Nehemiah explains what his motivation was for making the choices he did. What was his motivation?

nehemiah six

Chapter Summary

1. The enemies of Nehemiah were not going to give up. Now the wall was almost finished, and based on the reactions of the enemies before, you can only imagine how they would have been feeling! As enemies often do, they tried yet ANOTHER way to get to Nehemiah. What did Sanballat and Geshem try next? How many times did they try this new tactic?
2. What was Nehemiah's response to their suggestion?
3. Look up the following verses, and briefly outline what they say. What lesson can we learn for ourselves from Nehemiah's example, and these verses? Give an example of something you might work on for CYC, Sunday School or Meeting, that you could apply this to.
 - Eccles. 9:10 –
 - John 9:4 –
 - 1 Tim 4:15, 16 –
 - Luke 14:28-30 –

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.
1 Cor. 15:58

4. Now Sanballat and Geshem decided it was time to attack Nehemiah personally. If they couldn't stop the work of the wall, they would try what they could to get the people to stop trusting in him. What did they accuse Nehemiah of?

5. Often, the way the world tries to get to us is to wear us down. How did Nehemiah describe that he and the workers were feeling now?

6. What was Nehemiah's solution? (Hint: It's almost always the same solution☺)

7. Look up the following verses, and find at least three more that talk about God being our strength:
 - Isa 41:10
 - Zech 10:12
 - 2 Cor.12:9
 - Psa 56:1-4
 -
 -
 -

8. Whose house did Nehemiah go to? _____ Look up the meaning of his name in Strong's. It means:

9. What was Shemaiah's idea for Nehemiah?

10. Again, we see that Nehemiah always upheld God's principles. Find a verse in the law that would make Nehemiah refuse to enter the temple, especially for his own safety? What would happen to a man that entered the temple unlawfully? How does Psalm 119:110 relate to this?
11. What did Nehemiah decide was going on?
12. In his life, Nehemiah constantly showed the characteristics of wisdom and prudence. What does prudence mean?
13. These two characteristics are extremely important in our lives as we grow to become more like our Heavenly Father, and to live in the world. Without them, we cannot hope to get into the kingdom. Why do you think this is?
14. Ever since the serpent in the Garden of Eden, there has been a war, (called "enmity") in scripture between good and evil, sin and righteousness, worldly men and Godly men, wicked men and righteous men. Fill in the following chart by looking up the bible verses and noting the characteristics that the wicked display, and the advice given to a righteous man to recognize it for what it is: (next page)

Wicked	Righteous
Psa 37:12 & 32	Matt. 10:16-20
Ezek 33:31	Psalm 71:1
Prov. 26:24-26	Prov. 14:15
Micah 7:2-5	Micah 7:5-7
	Prov.22:3
	1 John 4:1

Like Nehemiah, we must truly understand what the wicked are like so that we can recognize when someone is going against God’s principles. As humans, we can be so easily deceived into doing the wrong thing! So study God’s word, understand his principles, and be alert to those who are exhibiting the signs of wickedness, however subtle they might be!

15. Can you think of an example of someone who did not show Nehemiah’s prudence and determination to hold to God’s principles no matter what and was killed because of it? Hint: He was a prophet and we don’t know his actual name.

16. When was the wall finished, and how long had it taken them?

17. At least 2 reasons for the rapid completion of the wall are given. Look up Neh. 4:6 & Neh. 6:16 and list the two reasons. List any other reasons you can find.

18. What does v.16 describe for us? (Other versions may help).



19. Look up Psalm 126. Based on clues in the chapter, when do you think this Psalm was written? Which verse in this Psalm is partially fulfilled by the reaction of the enemies in Neh. 6:16? Bible mark this verse in the margin of Neh 6:16, and make a note in the margin of Psalm 126 about the comparisons to Nehemiah.

20. At the end of chapter 6, we see that something very distressing was taking place. (Read vv.17-19 in a different version if it helps) Who was corresponding on a regular basis with Tobiah?

21. What reason are we given that people were showing loyalty to Tobiah?

22. Where in Nehemiah have we seen the names Shechaniah and Meshullam before?

23. What had started to happen? Look back in your workbook to the section on Nehemiah chapter 4, question 12. What do you think Tobiah's plan was with these new family connections? (If you're not sure, the last verse of Nehemiah 6 will help! Let's just say his plan was working!)

24. How does Prov. 28:4 relate to Neh. 6:19?

nehemiah seven

Chapter Summary

The walls of Jerusalem were now complete! Spiritually, the walls were built so that there was a separation between God's people and the world. But Nehemiah knew that there was still much work to be done. Over the past 52 days, he had witnessed strong evidence that there needed to be a spiritual reformation among the people themselves – the physical separation of the wall was only the beginning.

1. List whatever evidence you can think of from the past 6 chapters that the Jews were struggling spiritually, despite physically working on the wall.

2. To restore the ecclesia, Nehemiah started by setting up three groups of people. List what those three groups were, and briefly describe what role in the worship of God each group would have played:
 - 1) _____:
 - 2) _____:
 - 3) _____:

3. Who did Nehemiah set up as the leader in Jerusalem, and why?

4. What precautions did Nehemiah suggest for safeguarding the city?

5. The role of a watchman has great spiritual significance in Scripture. The most well known chapter that outlines the important job of a watchman is Ezekiel 33:1-9. In your own words, summarize the duties of a watchman in God's eyes.



6. Every man had to keep watch near his own house. This also has a spiritual significance. An ecclesia is made up of many families, or different houses. If we are hoping to keep the enemy (sin/the world) out of the ecclesia, this must start at home. List some practical ways that a home can "keep watch" and "keep the enemy out".

7. Again we have a chapter full of names. What is this chapter a list of?



8. The list of names is divided into 5 groups. Mark these group titles into the margin of your Bible, beside the first verse of each segment:

- vv. 39-42: The Register of the Priests**
- vv. 43-45: The Register of the Levites**
- vv. 46-56: The Register of the Nethinim (The temple servants)**
- vv. 57-60: The Sons of Solomon's servants**
- vv. 61-65: Priests with Unproven Descent**

OT
Question

9. Who were the Nethinim? Using your Bible and a Bible Dictionary, explain who the Nethinim were, how they got their name, and what their job was.

11. How many people were numbered in total, (not counting their servants)? _____
- How many servants were there? _____
- Total number of people that had returned from Babylon: _____

12. What does it mean when it says "The Tirshatha"? (Hint: see your margin of v.65) Who was the Tirshatha? Can you find the verse in Nehemiah that tells us directly?

13. How much was donated towards the work of re-establishing the temple worship in Jerusalem by each group?

Tirshatha:

Chief of the Fathers:

Rest of the people:

14. In v.61 we see that there were some that could not prove that they were of Israel because they could no trace their genealogy. The New Testament speaks of those that are of Israel but not of Israel. The passage is in Rom. 9:6-8. Look up the passage and explain what it means.

15. In Matt. 3:6-10, John the Baptist speaks of Jews who trusted in their genealogy. What was John teaching? What principle does it teach?

nehemiah eight

Chapter Summary

1. In v. 2, we're given another "time stamp". What is it?
2. Who was asked to bring the "book of the Law of Moses" and what were his roles in Israel?
3. Who should have been doing this job, and why wasn't he doing it? (Hint: Nehemiah 3)
4. Find a passage in the Law that commands the people to do this. According to those verses, why was it commanded?
5. Who was gathered to hear the reading of the law?
6. How long was the law read out for? How many hours does this translate to?
7. How were the people receiving it?

8. On this day Ezra was fulfilling the command given by Moses in Deut. 31:9-13. What specific details did they apply correctly?

Personal Character Checkpoint



9. We've all been there...the brother giving the exhortation has spoken for 20 min., and we're starting to look at our watches. Our stomachs are starting to growl with hunger, and our legs feel tired. After all, we've been *sitting for a whole hour* since meeting started. Time goes on...30 min....45 min.... oh, will we survive?! (Imagine 6 hours worth) There are some speakers that are easier to listen to than others. Having said that, there are ways that we can "hear with understanding" no matter what the excitement level we get from the speaker. After all, as long as someone is expounding the word of God, even if they are just listing bible verse after Bible verse, we should be able to glean something from it. Take a moment and list some ways that you could force yourself to listen to whatever class is happening, and get something out of the class.

10. Describe the scene of v.4-6 in your own words.

11. **THOUGHT QUESTION:** As time goes on in the world, we seem to be losing a bit of formality – in our ecclesias, but in the world around us as well. But, when we see how God ordained things in scripture, there was always a level of formality involved. As young people, we often think: "what's the point", or "what's the difference?" Have you ever thought: "it's all about my attitude, that's what matters...not the outward appearance or formality." What we don't realize is that keeping formality in our meetings, and in our dress code actually lifts our attitude

towards God. We should be willing to bend our own desires and rise to God in our actions. Isn't better to do something more formally where God is concerned, instead of changing our ecclesias to look and act more like the world? What are things at meeting that you would consider to be formal? Why do you think Christadelphians have patterned their meetings that way?



12. How many times does the idea of "understanding" the word appear in this chapter? List the verses that idea is mentioned, and underline them in your Bible. Why do you think it is important to "hear with understanding?"

Look up the word "understanding" in Strong's. Write its meaning here:

13. What was the job of the Levites that morning?

14. Look up the words "distinctly" and "sense" in Strong's, and write the definitions here. Based on those definitions, how would the people be feeling after the reading?

15. What was the people's reaction when they heard the law? Give as many reasons as you can think of why they would have reacted that way. (Keep in mind how long it would have been since they heard the law read).

16. What did Nehemiah tell them to do?

DID YOU KNOW?
Until the 1500s, the Bible was only available in Latin or Greek. The general public had to rely solely on the interpretation and translation of the priests of the churches. It wasn't until as late as 1523 that the bible was available in English, and even then people were cruelly punished for daring to read it for themselves. We are so blessed that we have the word of God readily available for our understanding!

17. We have the Bible readily available for our daily use. As a community, Christadelphians stress the importance of reading it every day. Why do you think this is important?

18. There are different ways that we can react when we find out that we have sinned, based on a class we might hear, or the readings we do. At first, we might weep, or feel very depressed. Do you think that continuing in this state of mind is helpful to changing ourselves? Based on Nehemiah's advice to the people, how can we react in a way that will bring about positive change?

19. Who met together on the 2nd day and why?
20. This word “understand” (in v.13) has a different meaning than the word we saw earlier in the chapter. What does it mean?
21. Since they were in the 7th month, what feast did they discover they should be celebrating at that time according to the law? Using your cross references, write down the passages that they would have been reading.



nehemiah nine & ten

Section Summary

**“To every *thing* there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
.....A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to
dance; ” ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1,4**

1. What is the time stamp in Chapter 10?
2. On what day of the month would the eight-day feast, just celebrated, have ended?
3. How is this gathering different than the one in Chapter 8? (The mood). How might that relate to the verse from Ecclesiastes that is in bold above?
4. Read Esther 4:1-4 and Dan 9:3 and explain the purpose of fasting with sackcloth and ashes.
5. Find two other instances in scripture where people fasted and or put on sackcloth and ashes, and explain why they did.

6. In chapter 8, the people had listened for hours to the book of the law, with understanding. What do you think this had to do with their reaction in ch. 9?

7. In v. 2, what did the Israelites do?

8. Look up the word "strangers" from v.2. It is made up of two different Hebrew words. Write what the meanings are, and explain then what this verse is telling us.

9. Look up Ezra 10:11, and explain why they should have already done this.

10. How did this action demonstrate the principle "forgiveness requires a change of our ways?"

11. List the order of events before the prayer of v.6-38.
 - i) V1 - Come together with fasting, sackcloth and earth upon them
 - ii) V2 -
 - iii)
 - iv)
 - v)
 - vi)

12. Who stood up to lead the people? (What was their job?)

OT
Question

13. What was the job description of the Levites in Israel's history? (This does not have to be a super-long answer – just a few sentences with a couple of references)

In Nehemiah, we have been given a couple of examples of long prayers. Prayer can be a difficult thing for us, yet God has provided some wonderful examples of prayers that can be a good guide or pattern for us in our own personal prayers. For example, this prayer starts out with exuberant praise to Yahweh. Then it is followed by a recognition of God's plan and promises, the wondrous works he has done, confession of the sins of the people and recognition of the mercy and forgiveness of God and finally and resolution to commit their lives to Him.

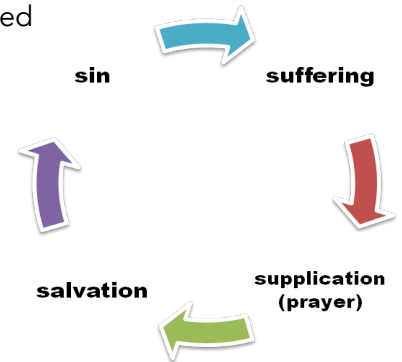
14. There are many chapters in scripture where men, in their praise of God, outline the various things he has done for Israel in their history. Look for them in the Bible, and list the references here:

Nehemiah 9, Psalm 78, ...

15. How do we know Ezra was familiar with the promises God made to Abraham?

16. Ten years ago, California Kids Camp studied the book of Judges. We saw in that period of Israel's history alone, they went through a constant cycle that looked like this:

This cycle was constantly repeated in the history of Israel, outside of the time of the Judges. Read through the prayer of vv6-38, and break it down into the different parts of the cycle:



Sin	Suffering	Supplication	Salvation
v.16...	v.9...	v.9...	v.11...

17. Why did Ezra state God eventually gave the people into the hands of their enemies? (v30)

18. Why didn't God completely wipe out the rebellious nation?

19. What does Ezra give as the purpose for everything God does? (v.10)



20. Look up the following verses. How do they relate to the previous question?
Exodus 9:16, Josh 2:10, 11, Psalm 83:18, Isa 63:12, 14, Jer 32:20, Ezk 20:9, Dan 9:15,
Malachi 1:11, Rom 9:17. Mark these cross-references in your margin beside v.10

21. In v.8 and v.13, Ezra comments on the righteousness of God and his commandments. What does he say in those verses?

Personal Character Checkpoint



22. In our lives, it can be very challenging to recognize the cycle that we've seen with the Israelites. This cycle is exactly how our lives can sometimes play out. God has a purpose with us, and that is to bring us to His Kingdom, so that His name can be glorified. Difficult things can happen, and we must always remember that no matter what, God is right, and his commandments are true, and just, and good. Has there ever been a time in your life that you feel that God has wronged you? (You do not need to go into detail). What can you do to help yourself remember that it will always be God that is right, no matter what? If God is always right in what happens, what does that say about ourselves?

23. In v.25, we see that at one point, Israel had become prosperous because of God's blessings. How are they described?

24. Look up the word "delighted" at the end of the verse. What does it mean?

25. What warning does this give us in this day and age? (Look up Luke 21:34-36, Rev.3:17) Do you think this is something we should be aware of?

26. At the end of the prayer, what did the Israelites do (v.38)?

27. Nowadays, how do we make a covenant with God to be his servants?

28. Find a couple of references that use similar language of "sealing" in relation to the covenant we can make with God nowadays.

29. Fill in the blanks (some blanks are for more than one word) (v.28) "And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinim, and all they that had - _____ from the people of the lands unto _____, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having _____, and having _____..."

Personal Character Checkpoint



Write a personal character checkpoint lesson based on the key words of the verse that you just filled in. (The key words are the ones you just wrote in).

30. What does the word "clave" mean in v.29?

31. This same Hebrew word is used in Ezra 9:12. What advice had the Israelites been given at the time of Ezra in order to be strong?

Personal Character Checkpoint



32. In living the Truth, everyone has a different definition of what being separate from the world means. Find at least two verses in the New Testament that talk about being separate. What do they mean to you? Do you feel like you are really being separate? Is your family being separate from the world? This might be a good time to talk with your parents, and come up with ways as a family that you can work to be separate. What practical things can you do as a young person to get into the habit of being separate?

32. What did the Covenant they made specifically say about the following:

a) marriage to foreigners :

b) conducting business on the Sabbath:

c) gathering crops on the 7th year :

d) collecting debts (from those who were poor) :

e) paying a yearly contribution to cover the expenses for operating the Temple :

f) collecting wood for the sacrifices :

g) bringing the first fruit offerings:

h) the people paying tithes to support the Levites :

i) the Levites paying tithes to support the priests:

33. What was the final statement of the Covenant? Look up Hag.1:4, which was written during the time of Ezra, when the work on the temple had stopped for 15 years. What was Haggai accusing them of back then?

nehemiah eleven

Chapter Summary

Because of the troubles that Jerusalem had seen for so long, the city itself was very empty. Most people lived outside of the city.

- 1) How did they end up populating the city of Jerusalem?
- 2) Psalm 87 speaks of a future time where righteous Gentiles will be counted as if they were born in Zion (Jerusalem). What does this mean? How does this contrast to the situation in Nehemiah 11? Read Psalm 87 again and find another echo to Nehemiah.

nehemiah twelve

Chapter Summary

I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up, And hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me.
O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave:
Thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.
Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his,
And give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.
For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life:
Weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.
And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved.
LORD, by thy favour thou hast Made my mountain to stand strong:
Thou didst hide thy face, *and* I was troubled. I cried to thee, O LORD;
And unto the LORD I made supplication.
What profit *is there* in my blood, when I go down to the pit?
Shall the dust praise thee? shall it declare thy truth?
Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me LORD, be thou my helper.
Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing:
Thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;
To the end that *my* glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

PSALM 30

(A Psalm written for the dedication of Solomon's Temple)

- 1) Think back to everything that had happened since the time Cyrus had made the decree that the Jews would return to their land. Why was this such an exciting celebration?

- 2) The temple was built, and now the wall was secure. It was finally time to re-establish proper worship in Jerusalem. Read vv.24, 45 & 45. After whose instructions did Ezra and Nehemiah pattern the Temple worship and service?

- 3) What were the different jobs for the running of the city/temple worship? (v.44-46) How would they be able to work full time in the Temple, and not in the fields, but still be able to eat? (v.44, v.47)

- 4) What did the priests and Levites do before the celebration began (v.30)?

- 5) Look up the word "purified" (v.31) in Strong's. What does it mean?

- 6) This word is translated most of the time as "clean" or "cleansed". Under the law, what/who had to be cleansed before it could be used/serve?
 - Exo. 29:36 -
 - Lev. 8:5, Num. 8:6 –
 - Lev. 14:9 -
 - Lev. 16:17-19 –

What reason does Yahweh give for this ritual cleansing of people and things? (see. Lev.16:16, Ex. 30:25-30)

7) Again we see that unlike man, God does not take things lightly. We might decide that ecclesial rituals are silly, unnecessary and old-fashioned. But we must realize that that is how man sees things. God requires a level of order and ritual because it reminds us to be holy as God is holy. (1 Pet. 1:15,16) When we take the extra time to dress nicely, or keep order in the ecclesia, it helps us to remember why we are doing it.

- What weekly ritual can you think of that God has given to us in this day and age “to remember”? (Provide a verse).
- In our ecclesias, who are the people that can partake of the bread and wine?
- Can you think of how this relates to the purifying/cleansing of the Levites, etc.? (Older Teens – find a verse in the New Testament as proof)

8) What does v.43 tell us about the volume of the celebrations? Who do you think would have heard the noise? How do you think they would be feeling?



nehemiah thirteen

Chapter Summary

- 1) Earlier on in the workbook, we looked at a verse in Deut. 23 about the Ammonites and Moabites. To refresh your memory, why were they not allowed into the congregation of God?
- 2) What did the Israelites do when they were reminded of these verses? What does that tell us about what we should do in our lives when we find out that something we've been doing is wrong? Do you think this is easy? Do you think it was easy for them?
- 3) How is Eliashib described in v.4? Why is this so concerning?
- 4) What had Eliashib done in the Temple?
- 5) Where was Nehemiah at the time this was going on?

The book of Malachi addresses the many issues that were happening. It was actually written at this very time, and it is suggested that perhaps Nehemiah heard from Malachi about what was going on which is why he returned to Jerusalem.

- 6) What did Nehemiah do when heard what Eliashib was doing? Does this remind you of anything that happened in the New Testament also in regards to God's house? What does it remind you of?
- 7) There is another Bible echo in this incident. Look up Matt. 12:44,45. What happens in these verses? What should the man have filled his house with? What did Nehemiah fill the room with? In scripture, the meal offering represents giving of the first fruits (the best we have) to God, and frankincense represents prayer. What practical lesson can you draw from this, compared to the parable we looked at in Matthew?
- 8) What had happened with the Levites and the singers? (compare to vv 44-47 of the previous chapter)
- 9) Picture the scene: The high priest was completely disobeying the law of Deut. 23:3-6, and allowing Tobiah to live in the temple (which Nehemiah refused to do himself because he recognized it's holiness!!). The Levites and singers couldn't be there anymore because no one was "paying" them, and they had to go work in the fields. What was worship like at this time?

10) What does this tell you about how important it is that the leaders of the ecclesia are spiritually and scripturally sound, not only understanding the scriptures, but LIVING the principles laid out in scripture (there's a big difference, as we see in this chapter of Nehemiah). Find a reference in the New Testament that backs this up.

11) What question did Nehemiah ask the rulers in v.11? Why do you think he chose that specific wording? (See Neh. 10:39)

12) Fill in the following chart. In the left column, fill in what the people had covenanted to God, and in the right column, what Nehemiah found them doing:

NEHEMIAH 10 – COVENANT	NEHEMIAH 13
v. 30	v.23
v.31	v.15
v.32	v.11
v.34	v.31
vv.35-36	v.11

13) Who were made treasurers over the treasuries, and why?

14) Nehemiah was a man of action. We see that in his whole life. He found heard about the walls being broken down...so he went to Jerusalem to fix them. He heard that the city was being threatened, so he worked with weapons in his hand and set up watchmen. He was an amazing example to us. Fill in the following chart with as many words as you can find in the verses provided. In the first column, write in the words that show Nehemiah (or others) finding out about things that were going on. In the second column, write the action words that show how he dealt with it. In the third column, write the adverb the shows when he took action (if it is given to us). (See next page)

AWARENESS	ACTION	TIME FRAME
v.3 they heard	They separated all the mixed multitude.	When they had heard
v.7		
v.10 I perceived	I contended with the rulers, gathered them together, made treasurers over the treasuries	n/a
v.15		
v.23		



Choose two different coloured bible-marking pens or pencil crayons. Underline each "Awareness" word, and each "Action" word throughout the chapter.

Personal Character Checkpoint



14) When you find out about things that are not right, either with yourself or your friends, what do you do about it? Do you choose to look the other way and hope that it will work itself out, or do you act in order to fix the problem? How can you improve this in your life? Give an example of a situation that might arise with either yourself or a close friend, and how you might act.

15) Read the following passages, and then answer the following questions:

Exod. 20:8-11; Exod. 31:14-17; Isaiah 58:13, 14

- a) What was the Sabbath patterned after?
- b) What would happen if the Israelites disobeyed the Sabbath?
- c) What was the Sabbath meant to teach the people?
- d) What would happen if the Israelites did keep the Sabbath?

16) Read Jeremiah 17:24-27. When were these words fulfilled? Based on that, why does it seem like such a surprise that Nehemiah was having to deal with this?

17) The Levites were told to cleanse themselves, and then what?

18) Whom had the Israelites married? What clue are we given that the children were being influenced by the world instead of the other way around?

19) During your life as a young person, you will hear many people tell you not to marry out of the Truth. This is such an important principle, because in almost all cases, the partner that is in the world will have the greater influence over yourself and the family. What was Nehemiah's solution?

20) How do we know that Eliashib's bad example in this regard was affecting others?

21) From this chapter, (in fact, in both the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah) we see how God thinks we should deal with sin. It always requires immediate and drastic action – after all, it is a matter of life and death. Find passages or examples from the old and new testaments that either show people taking immediate action to “flee” from sin, or exhort us in how to react when faced with sin.

NEHEMIAH WAS JUST A NORMAL MAN, WITH A LOVE OF GOD AND A ZEAL FOR HIS WORD AND HIS PRINCIPLES. WHEN HE SAW THINGS THAT NEEDED TO BE DONE, HE DID THEM, INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR OTHERS TO DO IT. YES, NEHEMIAH ASKED FOR HELP, AND GOT IT, AND ABOVE ALL, HE PRAYED, PRAYED, PRAYED. WE HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH FROM THIS STUDY THAT WE CAN APPLY TO OUR LIVES. WE ARE CALLED “LIVELY STONES”...WE ARE A WALL THAT IS BEING BUILT FOR GOD, WITH CHRIST BEING THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE. SOMETIMES OUR STONES ARE BROKEN DOWN AND IN NEED OF REPAIR. THROUGH PRAYER AND ACTION, OUR WALLS CAN BE REBUILT.

OUR PRAYER AND OUR HOPE IS THAT YOU TOO WILL HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING, AND THAT YOU WILL MAKE A CHANGE.

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET US RISE UP AND BUILD!!!

PROJECTS

Choose one of the following projects to complete before camp. Please bring it with you to camp. Projects will be displayed in the main assembly room throughout the week.

1. Draw or paint a detailed picture of the dedication of the wall from Nehemiah 12. Be sure to look up the details for accuracy – (for example – it says they used trumpets – what kind of trumpets were they?). Add as many details as you can to the drawing. On the back of the drawing, describe the celebration in your own words, with an explanation of some of the details you discovered.
2. Make a drawing or a 3D model of the wall of Jerusalem with the gates. Write on it different events from the book of Nehemiah that happened, along with when they happened, and in which area of Jerusalem that they happened (if we're told).
3. In his "School of the Prophets" series, Bro. Roger Lewis describes what bible study involves. First of all, you find the facts of what you're studying (i.e. where, when, who, etc). You also figure out the Bible Principle behind what you're studying. (i.e. be not unequally yoked with unbelievers). Finally, you work out what the exhortation is. The exhortation will be different depending on where you are in your life. For example, a 5 year old would look at the principle "be not unequally yoked with unbelievers" and learn: "Don't play with the naughty kids at school", where a 20 year old might learn: "Find a partner in the Truth to spend the rest of my life with," and a 40 year old might learn: "I shouldn't go into business with this person from the world as we will have different goals."

Find a section in Nehemiah and do a study on it. Divide a page into three sections: Facts, Principle, Exhortation. Explain all of the facts of the section you have chosen, including word meanings, cross references, etc. Then explain what the principle is – the lesson we learn from the study that we should apply to our lives in the truth. Finally, outline the exhortation for you, or for others – or perhaps the many different exhortations one can learn.