



# Nehemiah Protects



## Read Nehemiah 4 & Talk About...

**What do you want to be when you grow up?** Do you want to be a doctor? A singer? Or maybe a teacher? There are a lot of different jobs to choose from. Whatever job you have, you can use it to bring glory to God! Whatever work you do, you will most likely work with other people and no matter what your job is, there will always be people around us to protect. Our number one job in life is to bring God glory and we can do that no matter what job we have by loving those around us and looking to keep others safe.

**Today's Bible story** is about a man who protected the people of Jerusalem and kept them safe. That man's name was Nehemiah. Years earlier, the people of Jerusalem had been captured by the Babylonians and everyone had been taken away to cities in Babylon to live. After much time, the people were starting to return to Jerusalem. But they had a problem: the wall around Jerusalem had been destroyed in the war with Babylon. The city was completely defenseless against their enemies. Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem with a plan to rebuild the wall. The people were excited that they would soon be safe again. But rebuilding the wall took a long time to finish. During that time, the people were still vulnerable. They needed someone to protect them and keep them safe. That's when Nehemiah stepped in to help!! Sanballat, Tobiah, and other enemies of Jerusalem were plotting to stop the wall from being rebuilt. When Nehemiah learned of this, **he got to work on a plan** that would keep the people **safe**. The 1st thing Nehemiah and the people did was **pray**. Whatever our plans, we need to commit them to God in prayer. And whenever we feel frightened or sad, **we should turn to God 1st**.

The next thing Nehemiah did was post a guard day and night to watch for any enemy coming from a long way off and then warn the people of the danger. Nehemiah had half of the men work on rebuilding the wall and the other half stationed around the wall with spears, shields, bows, and armor, to protect the people from any enemy attack. Even the men who were building the wall were given weapons. Nehemiah loved the people of Jerusalem and wanted to keep them safe. His plan to protect the people worked! The enemies of Jerusalem turned away when they saw how well protected the city was. The people were able to rebuild the wall and feel safe again in Jerusalem for the first time in many years.

## Bible Point: God can Use You to Protect others.

**Lead with this:** When enemies threatened, Nehemiah stepped in to protect the people. He devised a plan to make sure the people were safe and that the work of God was able to continue. Today, God uses us, His children to protect others and in doing

### Memory Verse:

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

### Ask This:

Read the memory verse aloud and ask the kids how this verse is connected to today's story.

### Drive It Home:

**Do you want to help keep people safe?** You don't have to wait until you grow up to help people and bring glory to God.

You can do that right now!! **How??** Maybe you remember a friend who was getting picked on or bullied at school. **You can help by letting your teacher know what is happening. Or maybe it's your friend who is doing the bullying. If you tell your friend to treat others with respect & love, you're helping to keep everyone safe.**

**All of us can do what Nehemiah did. We can pray to God and ask Him to keep our friends and family safe.** Just like God used Nehemiah to protect the people of Jerusalem, God uses us every day to keep others safe. God can use you too – not just when you grow up, but starting today!

**Simple Prayer:** Dear God, Please use us to bring you glory, not just when we grow up, but today too.. In Jesus' name, Amen.