

### Chapter 21 – Rebuilding the Walls

#### Day One – Sad News

**Today's reading:** Page 291 through bottom of page 295

**This reading covers:** Ezra 7; Nehemiah 1

**Summary:** Nehemiah is sad when he hears that things in Jerusalem are not good.

**Do together:** Every day we hear about sad things around us. Look at today's local news and see if there is something that makes you sad. Now, see if there is any way you can help with the situation. It might be helping with those who are hungry or children whose families need some help.

**Think about:** Nehemiah was sad because the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and other people were making fun of his friends. But this sadness turned into action, as we will see tomorrow. It's one thing to be sad; it's another thing to do something about it. When you look around, what do you see that makes you sad, something that just isn't right? Now, what are you going to do about it?

**Also read:** John 13:17; James 2:15-16

**Prayer:** Dear God, sometimes when I look around I see things that make me sad. Help me to not just feel sad, but to do something to help. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Chapter 21 – Rebuilding the Walls Day Two – Keep Working

**Today's reading:** Bottom of page 296 through break on page 298

**This reading covers:** Nehemiah 4

**Summary:** The people kept working, even when others try to stop them.

**Do together:** Build a wall together. Make sure you don't have enough of one particular item to complete the task. Mom and Dad, help the kids think of other ways to build when you run out of one item. Don't let not having everything you need keep you from completing the project.

**Think about:** Sometimes, when you are trying to do something good, there are obstacles in the way that make it hard to keep going. When that happens, do you just stop? Or, do you look for another way to get the job done? Nehemiah knew that God wanted him to rebuild the walls to the city, so he kept going, even when there were things in the way.

**Also read:** Proverbs 14:23

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for giving us jobs to do to help you and help others. Keep us moving forward, even if things get difficult sometimes. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Chapter 21 – Rebuilding the Walls Day Three – God’s Word

**Today’s reading:** Top of page 300 through top of page 302

**This reading covers:** Nehemiah 8

**Summary:** The building completed, it was time to build their lives on God’s Word.

**Do together:** Make a scroll. Take two popsicle sticks and a piece of paper 4” tall and 8” wide. Lay the paper down so it is wide in front of you. Write, “Ezra opened the book,” which is found in Nehemiah 8:5. Glue or staple a popsicle stick to each end. Roll each side toward the middle.

**Think about:** Ezra knew that it would take more than buildings and walls to help people look to God. They needed to hear and know his Word. The same is true for us today. It is nice to have a church to attend, but we need to hear and know God’s Word. That’s why we are doing *The Story*! Ezra opened the book so the people could hear God’s Word. Make sure you open *The Story for Kids* every day so you can hear God’s Word, too.

**Also read:** Psalm 119:97-104

**Prayer:** Thank you for your Word. Help me to read it every day. Also, help me to take what I learn and live it out. In Jesus’ name, Amen.