

NEHEMIAH

BUILDING
MINISTRY
TOGETHER

Lesson 8: Nehemiah 6:1-19 Building Ministry Through Opposition Part III

Welcome and Play Time 10 Min

Three weeks of opposition in a row! Do you think this might be a theme of Nehemiah?! Your kids might not have experienced much opposition yet in their lives, but that doesn't mean they won't. This is a great opportunity to train them before it happens so that they might know how to handle themselves when it does.

Use this time as people are arriving for the kids to get comfortable with each other and settled in so that Mom and Dad can enjoy small group.

Bible Lesson Activities 20 Min

Activity 1: True Friends Nehemiah had people that were pretending to be his friend so that they could hurt him. True friends love you for who you are and want to help you follow God and fulfill the plans He has for them. They are to "build one another up" and not plan to harm them. Pick a special chair in your room and call it the "hot seat". Have everyone take turns building up each other. This means saying things that are true, lovely and praiseworthy about them - talk about character and not physical characteristics.

Give each child a turn in the "hot seat" as you build each other up!

Activity 2: Doing the right thing no matter what it looks like to others.



The people who were against the work that Nehemiah was doing threatened to tell lies about Nehemiah. They hoped this would make him stop working on the wall. He kept working! Then a person who was supposed to be on his side tried to get him to sin. He wouldn't do it. Nehemiah trusted God and kept working no matter what it looked like to others around him.

1 Peter 4:4 tells us that people who are ungodly will think it is strange when you do the right thing. They want you to do the wrong thing, or sin, like they do. Play the game "Red light, Green light". Talk about how when you are doing what pleases God, then He gives you a green light or permission to keep working! When you are tempted to sin, or do what displeases God, He gives us a red light to tell us to stop.

Activity 3: Doing the right thing no matter what others think.

President Teddy Roosevelt said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far." This means we need to let our character speak for us. We don't need to be quick to anger or quick to quit, but filled with godly character qualities. Use the word search to hunt for character qualities that would be great "big sticks" as others try to find fault in you.

Bible Reading Time & Scripture Memory 10 Min

Have a small snack for the kids like pretzels or cheerios to help encourage quiet mouths and listening ears. Pray and thank God for directing our steps and using our plans to work in His great plan. Read the Word straight through and then give yourself time to discuss after you've read the whole passage.

Read Nehemiah 6:1-9 (NASB) Read from a Bible if you have one available

1 Now when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and that no breach remained in it, although at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates, 2 then Sanballat and Geshem sent a message to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together at Chephirim in the plain of Ono." But they were planning to harm me. 3 So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" 4 They sent messages to me four times in this manner, and I answered them in the same way. 5 Then Sanballat sent his servant to me in the same manner a fifth time with an open letter in his hand. 6 In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel; therefore you are rebuilding the wall. And you are to be their king, according to these reports. 7 "You have also appointed prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning you, 'A king is in Judah!' And now it will be reported to the king according to these reports. So come now, let us take counsel together." 8 Then I sent a message to him saying, "Such things as you are saying have not been done, but you are inventing them in your own mind." 9 For all of them were trying to frighten us, thinking, "They will become discouraged with the work and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

Discuss with the children what the verses mean. The same people keep trying to get Nehemiah to stop the work he's doing. **What are some ways they tried to get him to stop?** (*Frightening him, pretending to be his friend so they could hurt him, telling lies about him, trying to wear him down by asking over and over*). **Did Nehemiah stop?** (*No*). **Why do you think that Nehemiah wasn't afraid of these men?** (*He trusted God, he knew God had asked him to build the wall*). **How do we know this?** (*He is always faithful and praying!*)

Verse 15 of chapter 6 says, "So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of the month Elul, in fifty-two days." God was faithful and helped Nehemiah and his people rebuild the wall in a record amount of time!

Let's memorize this week's verse:

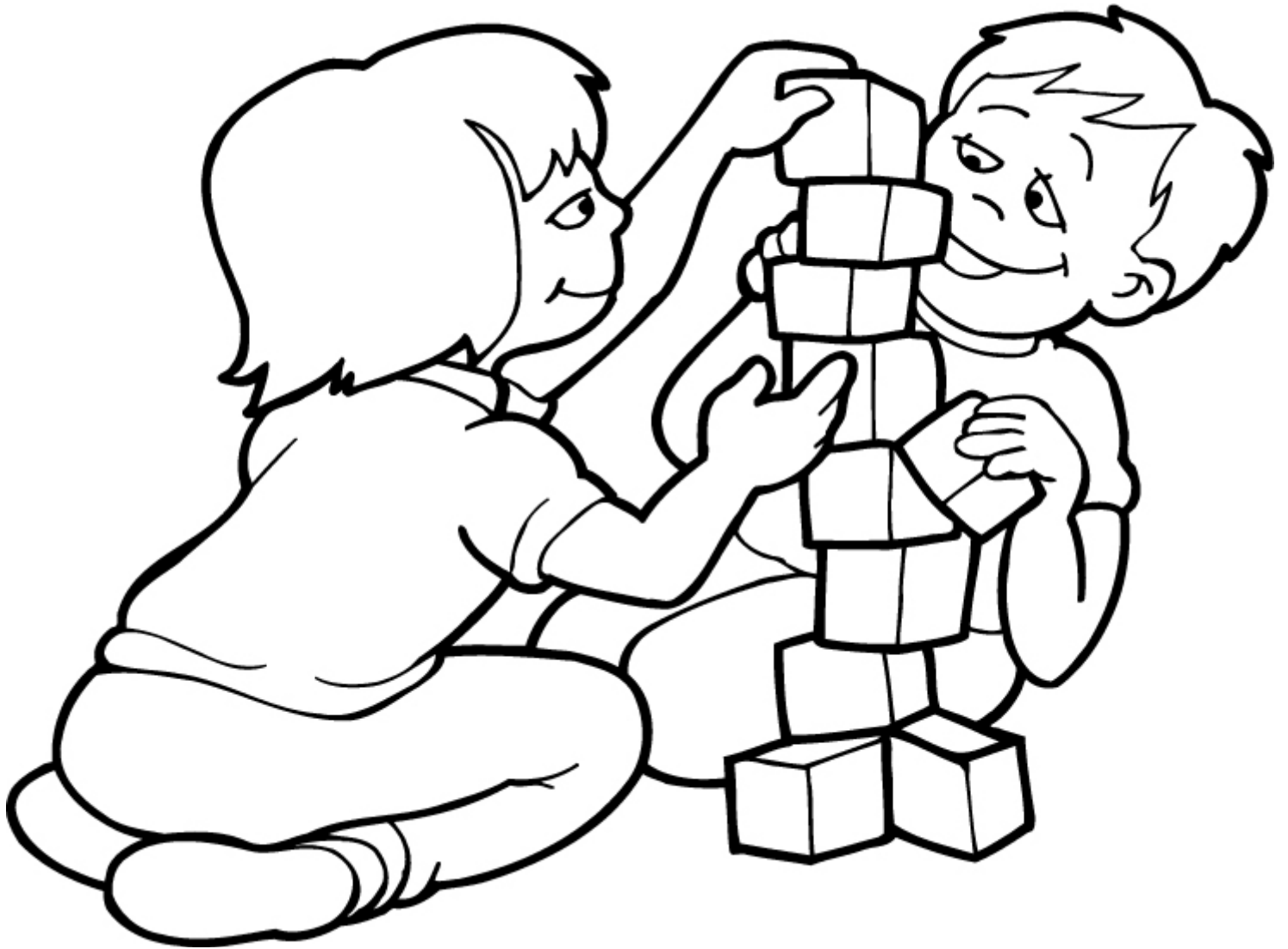
**"So then we pursue the things which make for peace
and the building up of one another."
Romans 14:19**

Coloring Sheet 10 Min

Pass out the memory verse coloring sheets and have children color them. As you color repeat the verse several times to help the words sink in!

Closing/Clean Up 5 Min

Clean up and make sure everyone has shoes on, coloring sheets in hand and everything is put back in the room. Praise God for a wonderful group of young people!



**“SO THEN WE PURSUE THE
THINGS WHICH MAKE FOR PEACE
AND THE BUILDING UP
OF ONE ANOTHER.”
ROMANS 14:19**

Character Traits

L W A F X T L L V O E X C N Y
L L H P X U C D H C N L O H T
Q C Z C F F M E N R U F N Y L
M P O P O C U E P F O B S T A
P S L O Q U T V T S D V I I Y
Y E I X P S R H I I E D D S O
H W H T I E G T S F R R E O L
S R E S O U R C E F U L R R S
W S R Y O I I A A O L W A E S
A E E H N P R I T U U U T N E
P P T N L C R T Q I R S E E N
H A Z I I N S P A A V X I G I
A A N I E L P S J P Q E Q Y L
R E Z S E H D Y T S E N O H N
D R S L O V I N G D A W K N A
W G I B X I N T E G R I T Y E
O Q W L E L B A T I R A H C L
R X I B M G D C E E R Q F F C
K X Z R Q T L M S C X F Y G X
P A Z F I B I E U X G C B E O

integrity
discipline
honesty
hardwork
respect
cleanliness
charitable
friendliness
persistence
fairness

patriotism
resourceful
generosity
loyalty
cooperative
considerate
thoughtful
courteous
loving
helpful