

A House Divided

Children's Message | Program Overview | Nehemiah 3-4
By Lt. Natalie Austin

Topic

A House Divided

Description

In the activity, we'll illustrate what can happen when we don't work together.

Key Verse

"If a House is divided against itself that house cannot stand. (Mark 3:25)"

Biblical basis

"God commands unity among believers because, once conflict enters the midst of any assembly or entity, productivity and usefulness inevitably grind to a halt and the whole organization is weakened and becomes vulnerable to attack."

The Big Idea

As a community, we need to recognize what tears us down and builds us up.
What gives us hope?

Scripture Emphasis

Nehemiah 3-4

Resources

The Rhyme Bible Storybook for Little Ones. Online example.
<http://www.biblewise.com/kids/read/young/nehemiah-builds.php>

NEHEMIAH REBUILDS THE WALL OF JERUSALEM

Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the King of Persia who lived in Susa. When Nehemiah asked his brother and some other Jews about Jerusalem, they told him the walls and gates were broken down. This made Nehemiah very sad. He fasted and prayed. When the King asked why he was so sad, Nehemiah told him about Jerusalem. Nehemiah asked to return to the home of his ancestors to rebuild the city. The king granted his request.

The people who participated in rebuilding the city and repairing the walls were priests, leaders, and ordinary people. Groups and whole families worked all around the wall together, taking different parts. This project was no easy task as Nehemiah not only had to deal with people from the outside making fun of the work and trying to ruin God's plan but problems on the inside as well.

Not all of God's people, the Jews, were treating each other fairly. They could not take care of themselves or their families because the Jewish leaders were making them payback what they owed and more. This led to anger and frustration among the Jews. Nehemiah prayed and asked God to give him wisdom. He called the people together to hear what he was going to do. Nehemiah challenged the leaders to do what is right. They agreed.

If Nehemiah had not asked God to help him work out the situation with the Jews, it could have affected the rebuilding of the city. Who would have protected the city if the Jews were all fighting with each other? Jesus tells us in the bible that, "If a house is divided against itself it cannot stand." This conflict could have divided the Jews, stopping the project. The other enemies who did not want the city to be rebuilt would have been happy. But, God used Nehemiah to bring the people back together. Even with these setbacks, the wall was finished in 52 days. What an accomplishment. The people of Jerusalem were very thankful. Then they celebrated and worshiped God.

STUDENT QUESTIONS

Who was Nehemiah?

What did God want him to do?

What event was creating a division between the Jews?

What did Nehemiah do to address the situation?

Do you think Nehemiah would have succeeded in building the wall by himself?

What kinds of things divide us today?

GOSPEL CONNECTION

The body of Christ is one body, made up of many different parts. Each part has its own job and function and work together with one goal in mind. When one part separates from the body, the body no longer works, the goal is not met and the project always

fails. Nehemiah realized he needed everybody to do their part in order for the wall to be built; one person could not do it by himself or herself. When we accept that Jesus Christ died for us, we become one of his children and part of the body of Christ. We work together with our different gifts and talents to make his goal and mission work. Like Nehemiah, we are tasked with working together with others who believe in Jesus to do what God wants us to do. If we try to do God's work by ourselves, we will fail. So, when you see God's people not working together remember, we can't do it alone. We need each other and God to get things done for the Kingdom.