

You Can't Eat Walls

Handling Internal Strife

Nehemiah 5:1–19

In our passage, Nehemiah effectively demonstrates for us, how to deal with strife.

1. The _____ to Nehemiah
Nehemiah 5:1–5

2. The _____ of Nehemiah
Nehemiah 5:6–7

3. The _____ of Nehemiah
Nehemiah 5:8–19

Application:

God is in the business of solving problems and changing lives. He loves working the miraculous in the lives of those who trust him.

For the Family

Review our story so far:

After hearing that Jerusalem was in ruins, Nehemiah prayed and asked the king to go and rebuild the walls. He traveled to Jerusalem, inspected the walls, and rallied the people to rebuild them. He spread people around the wall, and they began repairing the wall and gates. Some enemies of Jerusalem tried to stop the project, but Nehemiah prayed and set up some guards so the people could keep working.

Read together Nehemiah 5:1–12.

Explain that because of the work on the wall, many people didn't have enough money to feed their families. There were some rich people who could have helped, but instead made things worse.

Talk together about Nehemiah's reaction to this:

1. Nehemiah got angry. (Verse 6) When we see other people getting mistreated, that should make us angry. We should want things to be right and fair, the way God wants things to be.
2. Nehemiah got control of himself. (Verse 7) We never want to take action while we are angry. We have to make sure we are in control of ourselves. We want to help people make good choices, not just give them a hard time because we are mad.
3. Nehemiah talked privately with the people who were cheating their fellow Jews. (Verse 7) Whenever we have a problem with someone, we are to go them first if we can. (For children, they need to talk with a trusted adult first.)
4. Nehemiah called a community meeting. (Verses 7–8) Sometimes a problem needs to be talked about in public, so everyone can agree together on the best solution.

Pray together that if you see people being treated in a way that would make God angry, that you will do what you can to make things right, just like Nehemiah.

Next Week: Sanballat tries to trick Nehemiah