



Lesson 117– Nehemiah Governs Jerusalem Devotions for Week of October 26, 2025

Children's Ministry has prepared a five-day, weekly devotion to reinforce the Bible lesson covered on Sunday. We're here to come alongside you as you train up your child in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). Please contact us or go to the Children's Ministry app for added support or resources. We love you and are here for you and your children.

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Unit Memory Verses

1 Peter 5:10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

Jeremiah 33:7-8 I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first. I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against Me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against Me.

Day 1

Read: Nehemiah 5

God called and was using Nehemiah to be the leader of Israel. Now that the people of Israel had come back to their land, there were many problems. Some of the rich had taken the good land and the vineyards, and so, there were others who did not have land or farms, and they still needed food to eat. The rich were making them pay and if they couldn't pay, they were making them sell their children into slavery to pay for food. Nehemiah saw this and knew this was wrong. He was bold to stand up and make things right. He made the rich promise to give the land back and to give back what they took. The rich listened and did what Nehemiah said. God makes leaders, and leaders are followed. When God calls a leader, He equips them to have the wisdom and the leadership skills to lead and others see that and are willing to submit and follow. When God calls someone like Nehemiah, God also enables and helps them lead. Nehemiah also led by example. He didn't take from others, but he worked hard and was able to feed the people at his table. Nehemiah told the people to do the same. A leader should be honest and follow the things that are right and pleasing to God, and Nehemiah did this.

Discussion: Who are some other leaders in the Bible that God called? Talk about their leadership. Moses, Gideon, King David - Can you think of others?

Pray: Pray for our leaders. Pray and ask God to give them wisdom and help them do the right things and make the right choices for our country, city, school and even church. Name each leader that you can think of in your life and pray for them.

Day 2

Read: Nehemiah 6

As God was doing a great work in Israel to rebuild the walls again and using Nehemiah to lead the people, the enemy did not like this. As is his nature, he went around like a roaring lion seeking to devour and destroy. He used Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem to try and disrupt the work. They sent letters to meet with Nehemiah. They were trying to frighten him and stop the work of the Lord. Nehemiah was always praying and seeking God, and God showed him to not meet with them. They continued to try and made up threats and lies to trap and scare Nehemiah. They even hired a priest to try and make him hide in the temple. Nehemiah was not a priest and for him to go in the temple would have been a great sin. God was faithful to warn Nehemiah, and he didn't fall for the enemies' tricks. Nehemiah was confident in what God had told him to do, and he was faithful to complete it and not let anyone or anything stop him. The wall was completed in 52 days! That is amazing! God helped the people, and He protected them. God led them and strengthened them to do His work. The people, with God's help, overcame the enemy and won and finally had walls of protection around their city. Remember, when we are on God's side, we are on the winning side.

Discussion: Was there a time in your life when you are trying to do the right thing that God has told you to do, and the enemy was trying to stop you and making it more difficult for you? Talk about it.

Pray: Thank and praise God for His power and strength and for being on His winning side. Ask God to help you remember and be confident and courageous to do what He has told you to do. Tell God you want to follow Him no matter what.

Day 3

Read: Nehemiah 8:1-12

God had helped Nehemiah and the Jews to build the walls and finish the work He had called them to do. Nehemiah then called Ezra to read the Word of God to all the people. It is so neat to see the hunger and desire to hear the Words of God. The Bible says they were attentive, which means they listened. They all stood in honor and reverence as the Word was read. In verse 8, it says as it was read, the priests gave the sense, or they translated and thoroughly taught the people, which helped them to understand the reading. It was like a big church service. The people were so

moved that they wept. They wept over their sins. Nehemiah said to rejoice in the Lord and all that He has done. So, they all had a feast and rejoiced and celebrated. This is an example for us. When Jesus was on the earth He taught if anyone hungers and thirsts to come to Him and He will give living water and He is the bread of life. We have the whole Bible, the whole Word of God. We can read it; it is like food and drink to our souls. As we read it, do you know that these Words bring you life and can satisfy all your needs. As you read, weep and be sorry for your sins and then rejoice and have joy for all that God has done for you. Read the Bible every day and study it. God's Word is alive and powerful and true.

Discussion: Do you read the Word of God every day and are attentive to it? Talk about the power of God's Word. Think of scripture that talks about God's Word and what it does in our lives.

Pray: Praise and thank God for giving us His Word. Ask Him to help you be attentive and hear and listen and follow His Word. Tell God you want to obey Him and His Word, the Bible. Worship Him.

Day 4

Read: Nehemiah 8:13-18

The children of Israel were back in their land after being taken captive for 70 years. They rebuilt the temple and just finished rebuilding the walls. They had purposed in their hearts to follow God and do what was right. They now had learned the blessings that come when we obey and follow God but also the punishments if we follow our own ways. They had not been following all the feasts that God told them to follow. When God did great things in the lives of the Jews, He wanted them to remember and celebrate every year. One of the greatest things He did for the people was to free them from slavery in Egypt. They would celebrate this on the holiday called Passover. When they were freed from Egypt, they left and traveled in the wilderness for 40 years and lived in tents before they entered the Promised Land. God wanted them to remember this time as well. They were commanded every year to observe the feast of Booths, where they were to build booths or tents, and were to live in them for 7 days. They were to sleep under the stars and remember how God had brought them out of slavery and how He brought them through the desert and into a new land. This was a special time and probably a fun time for families to have a camp out together and talk about the things that God had done. They still do this in Israel today. The people were truly living and following God and all He commanded them to do.

Discussion: What are some things you can do every year to remember what God has done in your life or in your family? You celebrate birthdays to celebrate how God made each one of you. What else can you do?

Pray: Thank and praise God for all He has done in your life and in your family's life. Praise and thank God

for saving you from your sins and giving you eternal life. Thank God for the fun celebrations you can do with your family.

Day 5

Read: Proverbs 4

This is a proverb that Solomon wrote to his children. He urged them to hear God's Word and to be attentive to it (or pay attention to it) and learn to understand it and not forsake it (or turn from it) ever. He said it is the most important thing to get. He talks about two paths. You can choose which path you want to take every day of your life. You can choose the path of the wicked, which is ugly and restless and violent and dark, or you can choose the path of the just, which has peace and blessings and shines bright. At the end of the chapter, Solomon encourages his children to follow God with their whole entire body. He mentions eyes, ears, heart, mouth and feet. Verse 22 says it is for life and health. We will have eternal life but also our life on this earth will be abundant and blessed. It's not enough to just follow God on Sundays or when people are watching you or just to hear God's Word and not have it in your heart and live it. We can have Jesus and live for Him with every part of ourselves.

Discussion: Re-read verse 20-27. List the parts of the body and what you are to do and not do with each part. Think and talk about the path you are on in this life and for your whole body. Are you living for God or for the world and wickedness?

Pray: Ask God to help you see the path you are on and how you are living for Him. Ask God to help you follow Him with your whole life and every part of you. Pray for each part of you and ask God to fill you and help you. Tell God you love Him with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

- Join us for the Turkey Bowl (Rooted v. Thrive Flag Football Game) on Saturday, November 1st from 10 – Noon behind the church! There'll be a potluck style tailgate and chili cook-off at 10, kickoff at 11, and kids' activities and crafts available throughout with the infamous potato sack races during halftime. Please bring a snack, dish, and/or drink to share or enter the chili cook-off. Also, please plan to bring your own chairs and/or blankets. Everyone is welcome to attend! Hope to see you and your family there!

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