



Materials I Need:

Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade



= Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two day. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. Nehemiah 6:15-16

Person	Nehemiah
People	Jews Returning to Jerusalem
Prophecy	Rebuild and Reconstruct
Principle	With God all Things are Possible

Aim Questions:

1. What was Nehemiah's job? (*Cupbearer.*)
2. How did Artaxerxes respond to Nehemiah's sadness? (*Told him to go and fix the problem. He even gave him a decree and soldiers.*)
3. Who built up the walls of Jerusalem? (*Families all pitched in and each built up their own sections.*)
4. How did the walls get built so quickly when there was so much opposition? (*God was in control helping them and giving Nehemiah wisdom.*)
5. How are we or people around us sometimes like Sanballat? (*Try to discourage others from doing God's work.*)



Hook:





Name That Job (Worksheet). Mix and match the famous person in the Bible with their job, 3NEH43.GF1.





Build a Wall (Activity). Tell the students that today you would like to make your story area secure and safe, and one good way to do that is to build a stronghold around it such as a wall. Build a "wall" around the story area using classroom furniture. Turn tables on their sides, stack chairs, etc. Discuss with the class what useful purposes walls served in Old Testament times. What about today?


 **Brick Layer (Activity).**


 Divide the class into teams of 3-4 students. Give each team a pile of legos or any other building sets. Tell them they are to build a wall as best as they can using these materials. They have 52 seconds in which to complete their wall. Today they will hear of how the Jews worked so hard that a wall surrounding a city was completed in 52 days! God truly blesses our hard work if we depend on Him.

 Divide class into teams of 3-4 students Give each team a newspaper bundle and masking tape (*painter's tape is cheap*). Tell them they are to build a wall as best as they can using these materials. They have 5 minutes and 20 seconds in which to complete the activity. Today they will hear of how the Jews worked so hard that a wall surrounding a city was completed in 52 days! God truly blesses our hard work if we depend on Him. Good luck!

 **Cyrus Says (Action Play).** Cyrus was a very important king and was always being asked permission to do various things. Have the students play "Cyrus Says" to the rules of "Simon Says."

 **Be a Cupbearer (Snack).** Have one plate of apple chunks and one of potato chunks. (*Use either Fruit-Fresh or lemon juice solution to keep them from turning brown.*) Divide the class in half and name one group kings (*the girls may be queens if they like*) and the other cupbearers. Explain to the students the various duties of a cupbearer, one of which was to be the king's food taster. This was to ensure that no one was trying to poison the king. Have each cupbearer pair up with a king and taste the apple chunk first. Have them inform the king if it is satisfactory and whether he can go ahead and eat it. Next have the cupbearers taste the potato chunks and inform the kings accordingly. Ask them if they liked their jobs...it is an important one, but one that could prove fatal!

 **Wall Draw (Class Art).** Tape a strip of butcher paper to the wall at about waist level. Have the students pick a partner to help them draw their section of a wall. Suggest the size of blocks and possible gates and archways that they could include in the section of wall they are building. The teams on the ends could draw the watchtowers that were used to stand guard.


 **What is Our Strength (Discussion/Song).** Bring in some weights or dumbbells. Take turns pumping iron. Is this where our strength lies as Christians? Nehemiah prayed to God to strengthen his hands (*Nehemiah 8:10*). Have the students sing "The Joy of the Lord is My Strength."





Book:

Presentation Ideas -

 **Nehemiah the Cupbearer (Overhead/Illustration).** Nehemiah served King Cyrus and found great favor in the king's eyes, **3NEH43.GF2.**

 **Night Ride (Overhead/Illustration).** Nehemiah and a few men went out at night to check out the the big job ahead of them, **3NEH43.GF3.**

 **Building the Walls (Overhead/Illustration).** Have students build a structure with blocks, legos, Lincoln logs, etc., using only one hand. Some of the builders in our story had to work with one hand because they were holding something else in the other. What was it? **3NEH43.GF4**

 **Sanballat and Tobiah (Overhead/Illustration).** These men tried many things to discourage the rebuilding of the wall, **3NEH43.GF11.**

 **Families Working Together (Overhead/Illustration).** Nehemiah 4:13 tells us that Nehemiah posted families to work together, **3NEH43.GF12.**

Bible Adventure -

We all love stories about people who fight against incredible odds and win. Helen Keller, Dave Dravecky and Joni Eareckson Tada are just a few real-life examples of this. There are some real life examples in God's Word about this kind of person, too. The New Testament calls them overcomers.

Nehemiah was just such a man. God used him in an incredible way when Nehemiah made himself available. When the Bible first mentions Nehemiah, we find him serving in the court of King Artaxerxes of Persia. If you'll remember back to our study of Ezra, Artaxerxes was king after Cyrus, Darius I and Xerxes I. Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer, which was an important position to hold. The reason it was so important was that one of Nehemiah's main responsibilities was to taste the king's drink before he had any to make sure it was not poisoned. If Nehemiah dropped dead from the poison, Artaxerxes would know it was not safe. Some job description, don't you think? As the person who took such risks to make sure the king was safe, Nehemiah became very trusted by Artaxerxes.

One day, Nehemiah's brother Hanani came to him from Judah with some other men. Nehemiah asked them how things were going in Jerusalem. Their answer caused Nehemiah to be very upset. They told him that the walls of the city were broken down and the gates were burned. Nehemiah was so distressed by this news that he sat down and wept. Nehemiah knew that twelve years earlier Ezra had taken a group of Jewish exiles back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and the city, which had been destroyed by the Babylonians. However, they had run into some problems with the people in the surrounding lands who did not want God's temple and city rebuilt. They convinced Artaxerxes to order the work stopped. In their hatred for God's people, they tore down the walls that had been rebuilt. It was this news that caused Nehemiah such sorrow. He remembered the psalms of King David as he wrote of the beauty and safety to be found in Jerusalem. To have the Holy City in ruins made Nehemiah ashamed. For days he fasted and prayed to the Lord. Nehemiah knew the best way to handle bad news was to let God handle the situation. For four months Nehemiah prayed both day and night for his people. He remembered that God had not only promised punishment for the peoples' sin, He also promised restoration for them. Nehemiah had an idea, and he prayed for God to make it come to pass.

One day Nehemiah was serving the king when Artaxerxes noticed how sad he looked. He asked his cupbearer what was wrong. Nehemiah was frightened because to show sadness in the king's presence could make him angry and possibly result in Nehemiah's death. But he found the courage to tell Artaxerxes about the terrible state Jerusalem was in, and that this is what made him sad. When Artaxerxes asked Nehemiah what he wanted to do, he told him that he wanted to go to Jerusalem himself to rebuild it. Nehemiah writes that because God's gracious hand was on him, the king granted his request and even appointed him governor over Jerusalem. He also told Nehemiah he could take lumber from the king's forest to use in the rebuilding (*Nehemiah 2:6-9*). Artaxerxes gave Nehemiah a decree and soldiers to go along so he could make the journey to Jerusalem safely. The exciting thing about this decree allowing Nehemiah to go is that it was a direct fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy about the seventy times seven weeks. From the time Artaxerxes issued the decree to the time Jesus entered Jerusalem on the back on a donkey was exactly sixty-nine sevens or 483 years. The seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy will take place in the future. Isn't God amazing?

Nehemiah arrived safely in Jerusalem and three days later went out late at night to inspect the walls of the city. He was working on a plan in his head for the rebuilding. He didn't say a word to anyone until he had it all planned out. Then he told the people and the priests and the officials how God had worked in King Artaxerxes' heart, causing him to give Nehemiah permission to come and rebuild Jerusalem's walls. The people had lived with the shame of their city being in ruins long enough. They were ready to start work right away!

Now Nehemiah could put his plan into action. It would not be without opposition, though. God's enemies were still in the picture. As God's people began the work, three men named Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem were there to mock and make fun of them. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?" Their mockery didn't stop Nehemiah. He reminded the people that God would give them success. He told the people his plan. He assigned everyone a specific place to work. He had people work on sections of the wall near their own houses. That way the people would work even harder, knowing that the wall would be protection for them. Those who lived outside the city worked on the sections where there were few homes. The priest worked on the Sheep's Gate while other groups of men rebuilt the other gates into Jerusalem. As the people worked, Sanballat and Tobiah were there, throwing their evil words at them. "What are those Jews doing? Can they really build walls out of all that burned rubbish? Look at what they're doing! If a fox climbed up on those walls, they'd collapse!" Nehemiah and the people prayed and kept on building. Soon the wall was half finished. This made the mockers even angrier. They threatened to bring armies to fight God's people and stop the building.

Once again the people prayed and posted guards to watch for enemy attack. Half the people worked while the other half guarded them with spears, bows and arrows. Some of the workers carried a weapon in one hand and building materials in the other. Many had swords at their sides as they worked. Nehemiah kept reminding them that God would fight for them. The people worked very hard, from early morning 'til eveningtime.

Now Sanballat and Tobiah were really frustrated. They had not been able to frighten the people away from the walls, so guess what they tried next? They targeted Nehemiah for attack, hoping to kill him, but they were sneaky about it. They invited him to meet them in a nearby town, but Nehemiah did not trust them and replied that he was much too busy with the building project to meet with them. Four times these evil men sent their message to Nehemiah, and four times he sent back the same answer. Sanballat tried something even sneakier. He wrote to Nehemiah, telling him that he was going to inform King Artaxerxes that the reason the Jews were rebuilding the wall was that they were planning a revolt and that Nehemiah was going to proclaim himself king. Nehemiah wrote back saying their story was foolish and untrue. He kept praying to God to give him strength.

Seeing that their first two plans had failed, Sanballat and Tobiah tried one more scheme. They hired a man named Shemaiah, who claimed to be a prophet, to invite Nehemiah to visit him. When Nehemiah arrived, Shemaiah told him that men were planning to kill him and that he should hide in the temple. But Nehemiah saw through the scheme. He knew God would not ask him to run when they were so close to completing the walls. He also knew that it was against God's Law for anyone other than a priest to enter the temple. Only a false prophet would ask him to break God's Law.

God's enemies had failed! In just 52 days the walls were finished, and those enemies lost their nerve as they saw that the work was done with God's help. There was no way they could win this battle! Have you noticed that God's work will always be opposed by someone? That should not keep us from being part of building His kingdom. God will always have the victory and His will will be accomplished. Today, Sanballats and Tobiahs come to us in clever disguises, seeking to discourage us and keep us from doing God's work. Some may try to tell us they are God's children, but they are busily trying to stop God's work. They could even be dressed in our own doubts and fears. There may be times when you or I are a Sanballat.

What is God's answer? Look at Nehemiah. First, he had a deep love for God and His people. He wanted God's City to show off God's character. He risked everything to ask the king if he might be allowed to go rebuild Jerusalem's walls. Second, Nehemiah totally depended on God in prayer. It was not a ritual--it was not just something to do. He knew that God had the power, not him. The result of this leaning on God was that everybody, not just God's people but his enemies, also, knew that the whole thing had been done by God. Wow!

Are you ready and willing to lean on God that way, to let Him do the work and then get the praise? There's no telling what God could do in and through you if your heart is like Nehemiah's.



Look:



Nehemiah's Wall (Wordsearch). Find the underlined words in the word search. Remember the words follow the directions of the arrows. Nehemiah 6:15-16, **3NEH43.GF5**.

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

- Nehemiah Two (Crossword Puzzle).** Look up the references in Chapter Two to find out how the Israelites were so successful in the rebuilding of the wall, **3NEH43.GF6.**
- Don't Be Defeated (Worksheet).** Sanballat and his friends tried to thwart the efforts of Nehemiah and the Israelites in their rebuilding. Write down the enemy's strategy and Nehemiah's response, **3NEH43.GF7.**
- Nehemiah's Story (Worksheet).** Help build the walls. Trace and color the picture, **3NEH43.GF8.**
- If These Walls Could Talk (Booklet).** If walls could talk, they'd find the Jerusalem wall's story hard to beat! Complete the storybook by cutting where indicated, and color. Read your books together and find out about the amazing work God did through the diligent labor of the Jewish families. Teachers: please order these pre-assembled books one week in advance, **3NEH43.GF9.**



Took:

- God is the God of Impossibilities (Discussion).** The ability, strength, and protection God gave to the Israelites truly was amazing as they completed the awesome task of rebuilding the walls that Nebuchadnezzar had turned to rubble. 52 days to finish the job really seemed an impossibility, but God did it nevertheless! What are your impossibilities? Are there great hurdles in your life that seem as though they can never be jumped? Is there someone you think you can never get along with, do you think you'll just never get math, or do you struggle with quitting a bad habit? Nehemiah 6:9 tells us that when others thought that the Jews' hands would get weak with all the work, Nehemiah prayed, "Now strengthen our hands." We should follow Nehemiah's example today when things seem impossible. Pray to our God of the impossibilities and watch Him go to work through you!
- Putting the Pieces Back Together (Team Race).** Divide the class into teams of 4 or 5. Provide each team with a jigsaw puzzle of approximately 50 pieces or less depending on the time you may need. The team who finishes first shows the success of true teamwork much as the Israelites displayed on the rebuilding of the walls. Reward them for their hard work with a great treat.
- Choose to Go God's Way (Maze).** Nehemiah chose God's way, how about you? There are many dangers we must face as we build the wall of our life. Only with Jesus beside us will we have safe passage, **3NEH43.GF10**
- Build a Leader (Drawing and Discussion).** Many leaders today call for others to follow, but not all leaders will take us in the right direction. What should we look for in a leader? Nehemiah sets the standard. Draw the ideal "leader" on the board (*or large paper*) as follows: When a student can name a quality to look for in a leader, he may come forward and draw a body part on our ideal leader. Then write the quality next to the body part (*qualities may or may not correspond to the body part.*) Suggest that students look at these verses for clues: Nehemiah 1:4 (*concern - eyes*); 2:4 and 4:4 (*praying - knees*); 2:13 (*careful and thorough*); 4:14 (*courage and trust in God - heart*); 4:23 (*tough*); 5:7 (*thoughtful - head*); 5:15 (*unselfish*); 5:16 (*hardworking - hands*); 6:3 (*focused*).
- Prayer Time (Discussion).** Leaders like Daniel, Ezra, and Nehemiah take responsibility for what is done by their subordinates. For each of these men, that meant confessing the sin of his people and asking God to make things right. If the leaders of our country were to repent and confess the sins of their people, what sins might they confess? What might they ask God to do?

NAME THAT JOB

Can you remember which famous Bible person had each of the following jobs? Draw a line to connect the job and the person who did it.

Zaccheus

Cain

David

Luke

Isaiah

Paul

Lydia

Saul

Solomon

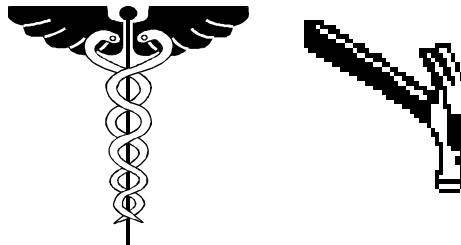
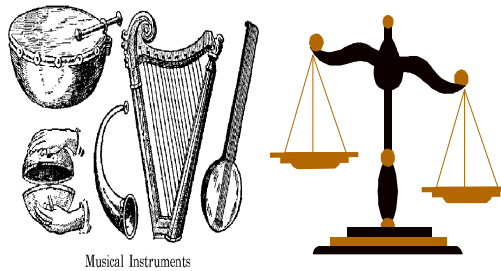
Elijah

James & John

Daniel

Esther

Joseph



Carpenter

Prophet

Fisherman

King

Fig Tree Tender

Tax Collector

Queen

Gardener

Shepherd/Harpist

Tentmaker

Governor

Seller of Purple

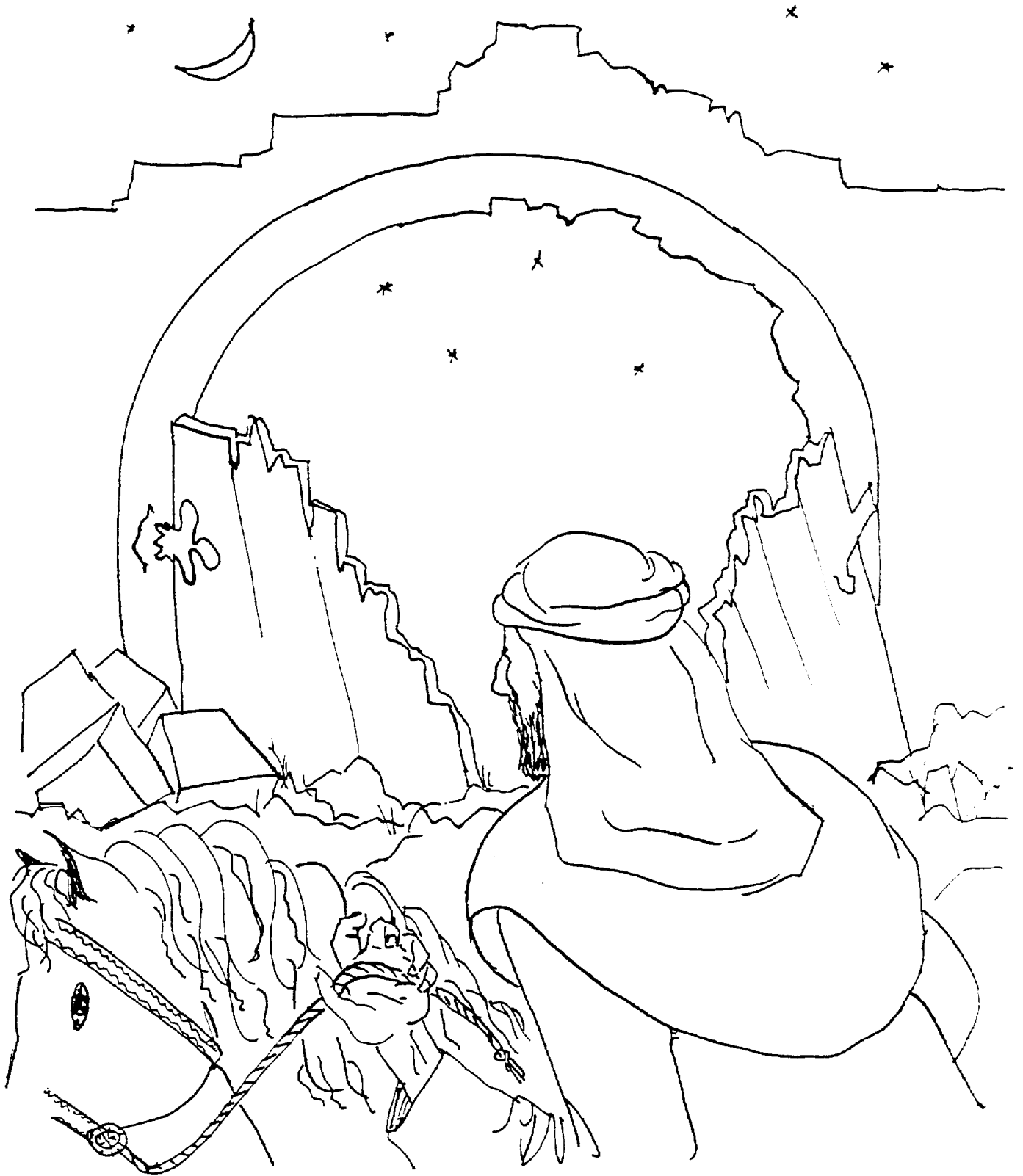
Wise Judge/King

Doctor

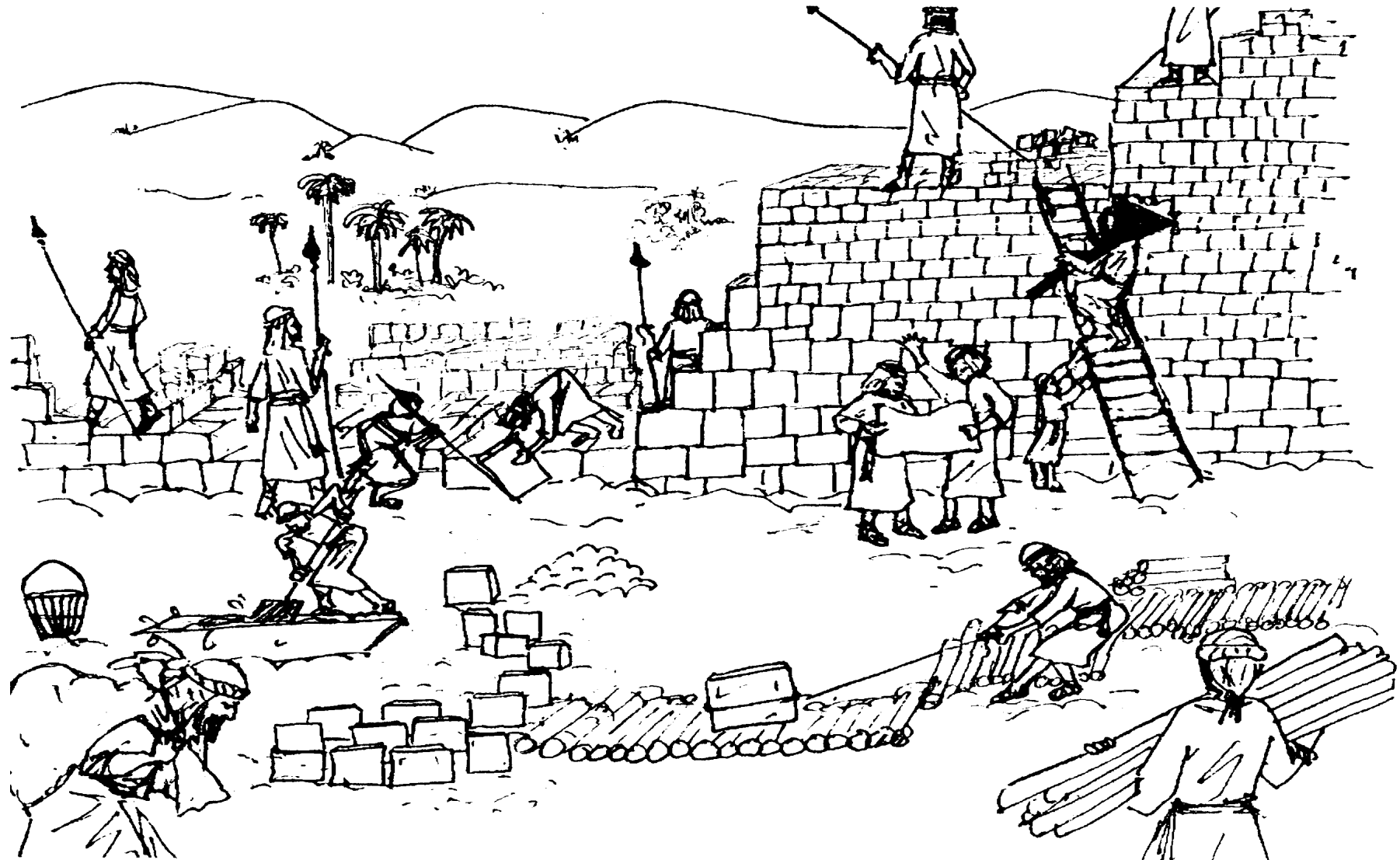
Nehemiah the Cupbearer



Night Ride



Building the Walls



NEHEMIAH 'S WALL

Nehemiah 6:15 & 16

So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

CAN YOU FIND THE WORDS THAT ARE UNDERLINED IN THE TEXT ABOVE?

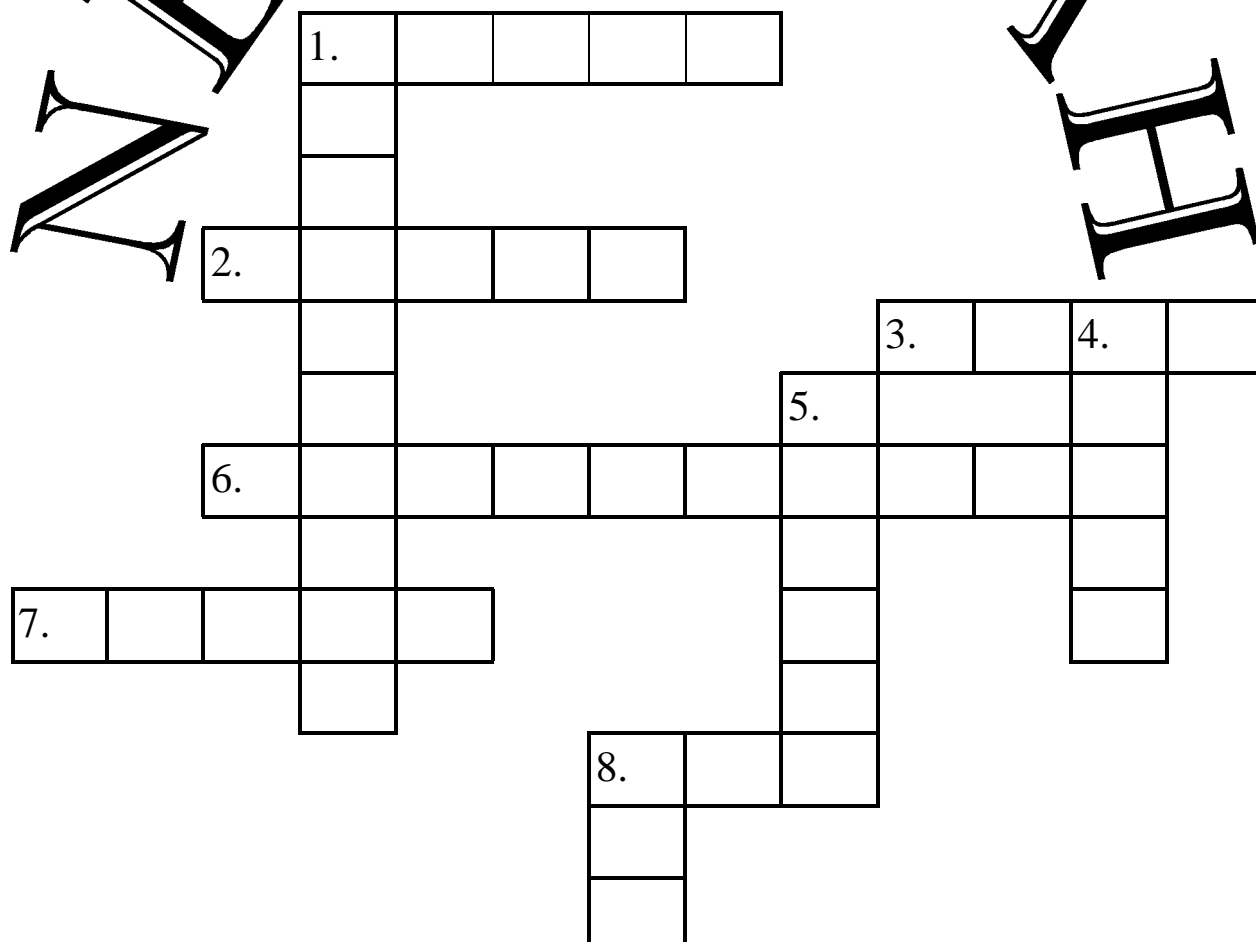
REMEMBER THE WAY THE THE WORDS CAN GO!!



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

NEHEMIAH

CHAPTER 2



ACROSS

1. WHO WAS THE KEEPER OF THE KING'S FOREST? (V.8)
2. WHAT WAS NEHEMIAH GOING TO REBUILD? (V.3)
3. WHO DID NEHEMIAH ASK FOR SUPPLIES? (V.3)
6. WHAT WAS THE KING'S FIRST NAME?
7. HOW MANY MEN MADE FUN OF NEHEMIAH? (V.19)
8. WHO DID NEHEMIAH CLAIM WOULD GIVE HIM SUCCESS? (V.20)

DOWN

1. NEHEMIAH FOUND FAVOR FROM WHOM? (V.8)
4. IN WHICH MONTH DID NEHEMIAH GO TO JERUSALEM? (V.1)
5. BEFORE NEHEMIAH SPOKE TO THE KING, WHAT DID HE DO? (V.4)
8. TO WHOM DID NEHEMIAH GIVE PRAISE TO FOR SUPPLYING HIS NEEDS?

NEHEMIAH

CHAPTER 2

	1.A	S	A	P	H				
	R								
	T								
2.G	A	T	E	S					
	X						3.K	I	4.N
	E					5.P			I
6.A	R	T	A	X	E	R	X	E	S
	X					A			A
7.S	E	V	E	N		Y			N
	S					E			
					8.G	O	D		
					O				
					D				

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Don't Be Defeated

Nehemiah's enemies tried just about every tactic to defeat him and his people; but he responded with faith and integrity. Fill in the correct description of each evil strategy and each response from Nehemiah.

STRATEGIES OF THE ENEMY

Threat of a fight
Mocking and ridicule
Diversion or Distraction
Threat of death
Angry taunts and ridicule
Invitation to sin
Lies and Accusations

NEHEMIAH'S RESPONSE

Stay focused on the job
A confident answer
Prayer and a good defense
Remember the Lord and be ready to fight
Prayer for God's justice
Proclaim the truth and pray for strength
Refuse to sin - just say no!

2:19 _____

2:20 _____

4:1-3 _____

4:4,5 _____

4:8 _____

4:9 _____

4:11,12 _____

4:13,14 _____

6:2 _____

6:3 _____

6:5-7 _____

6:8,9 _____

6:10* _____

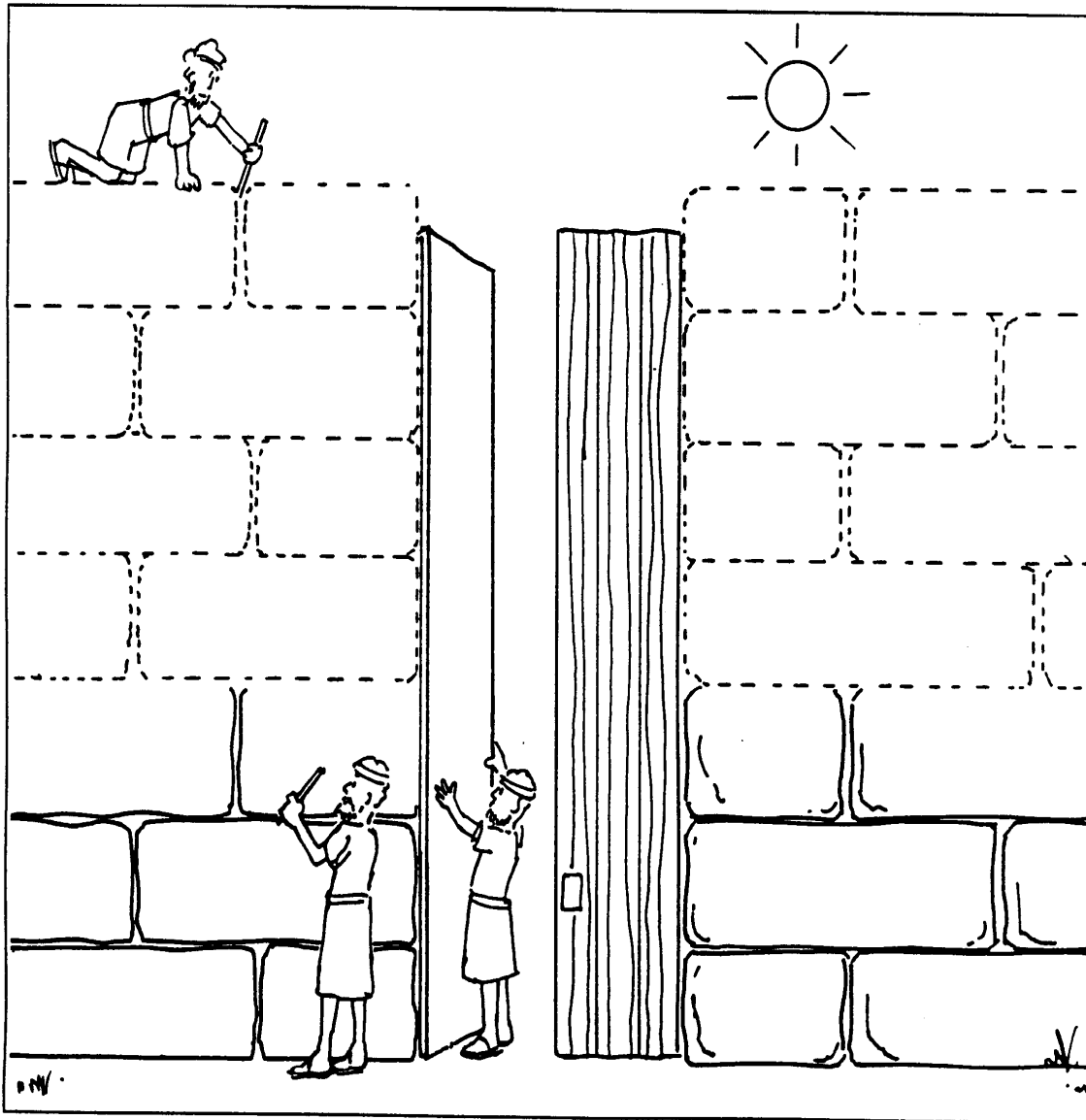
6:11 _____

*Only priests were allowed in the temple. Nehemiah was not a priest.

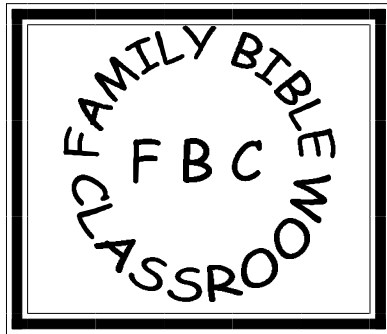
Nehemiah's Story

Nehemiah went to Jerusalem to help the Jews rebuild.
The people worked in groups to rebuild the city walls.

Help build the walls. Trace and color the picture.



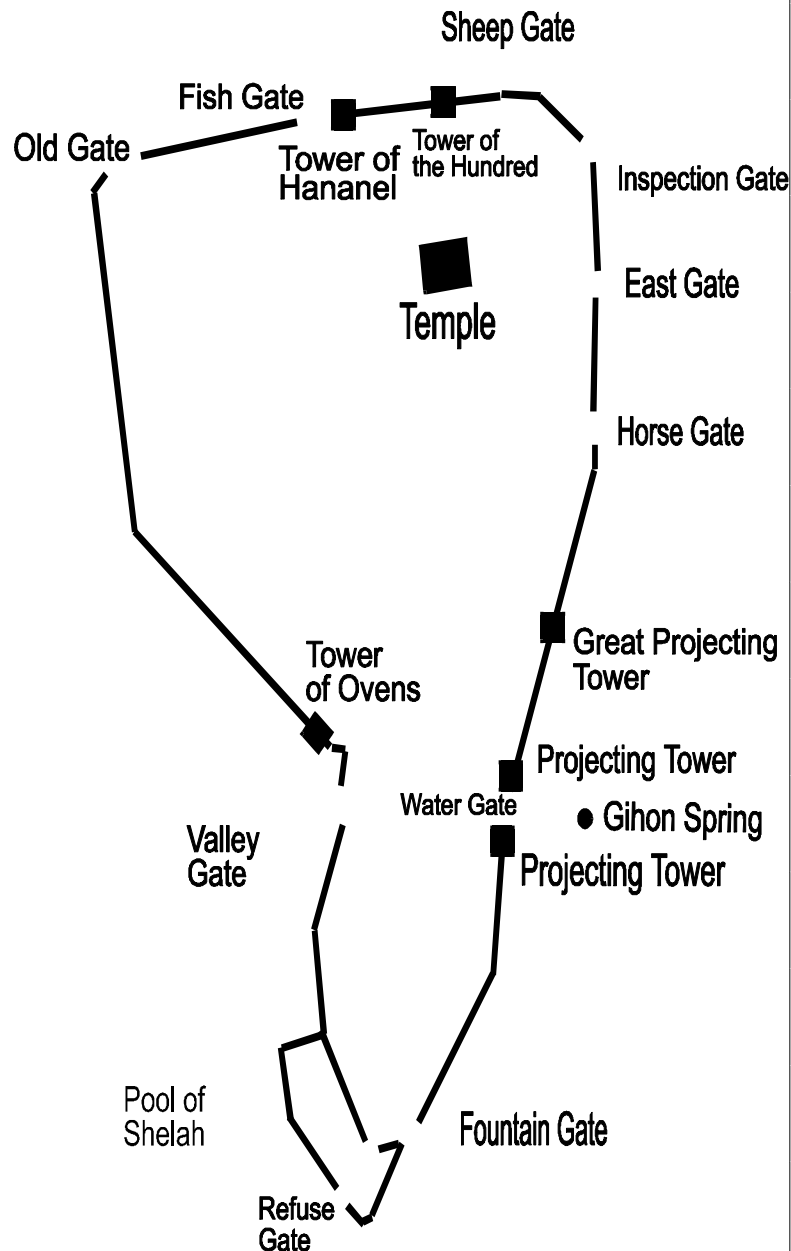
The walls were finished in 52 days! All this work got done with God's help.



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FAITH BIBLE CHURCH

IF
WALLS
COULD
TALK

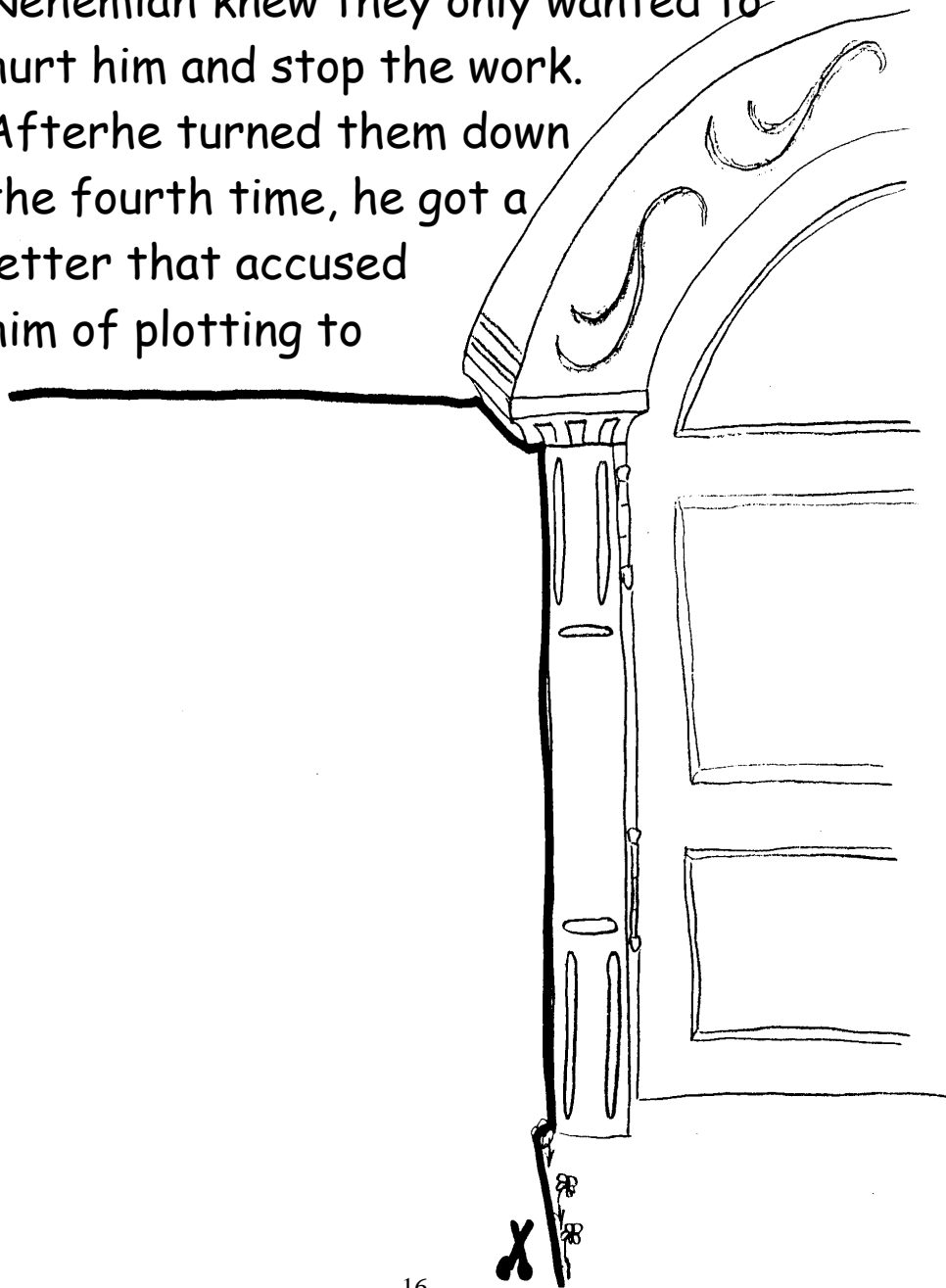
The Gates, Walls and Towers of Jerusalem



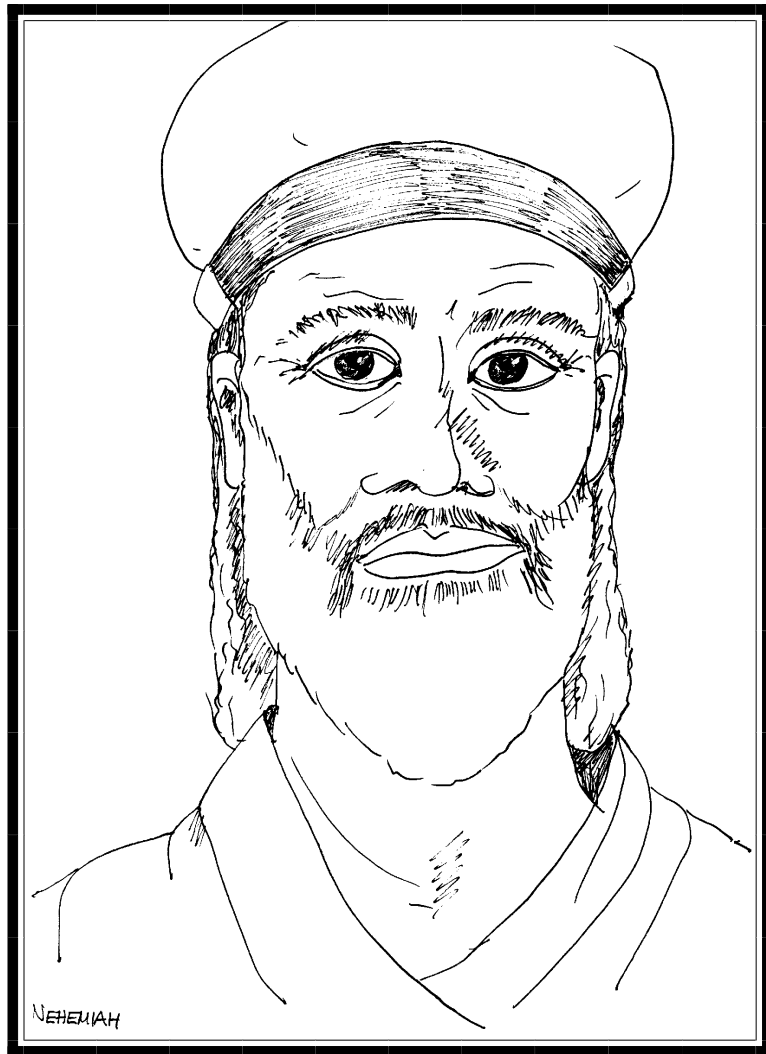
revolt against Artaxerxes. The letter said Nehemiah had appointed prophets who would make him King of Judah! But Nehemiah wasn't intimidated! He knew Sanballat and Tobiah made up the whole thing - just to frighten the people. And he told them so. Nehemiah prayed for strength and the work went on.

Finally, I was finished- and it sure felt great! I had been under construction for only 52 days! That's less than two months! When our enemies heard about me, they were afraid and lost their self-confidence. They realized that I could only have been built with God's help. Even a blockhead like me knows a miracle when he sees one!

Sanballat and Tobiah asked him three more times to come and talk, but Nehemiah knew they only wanted to hurt him and stop the work. After he turned them down the fourth time, he got a letter that accused him of plotting to



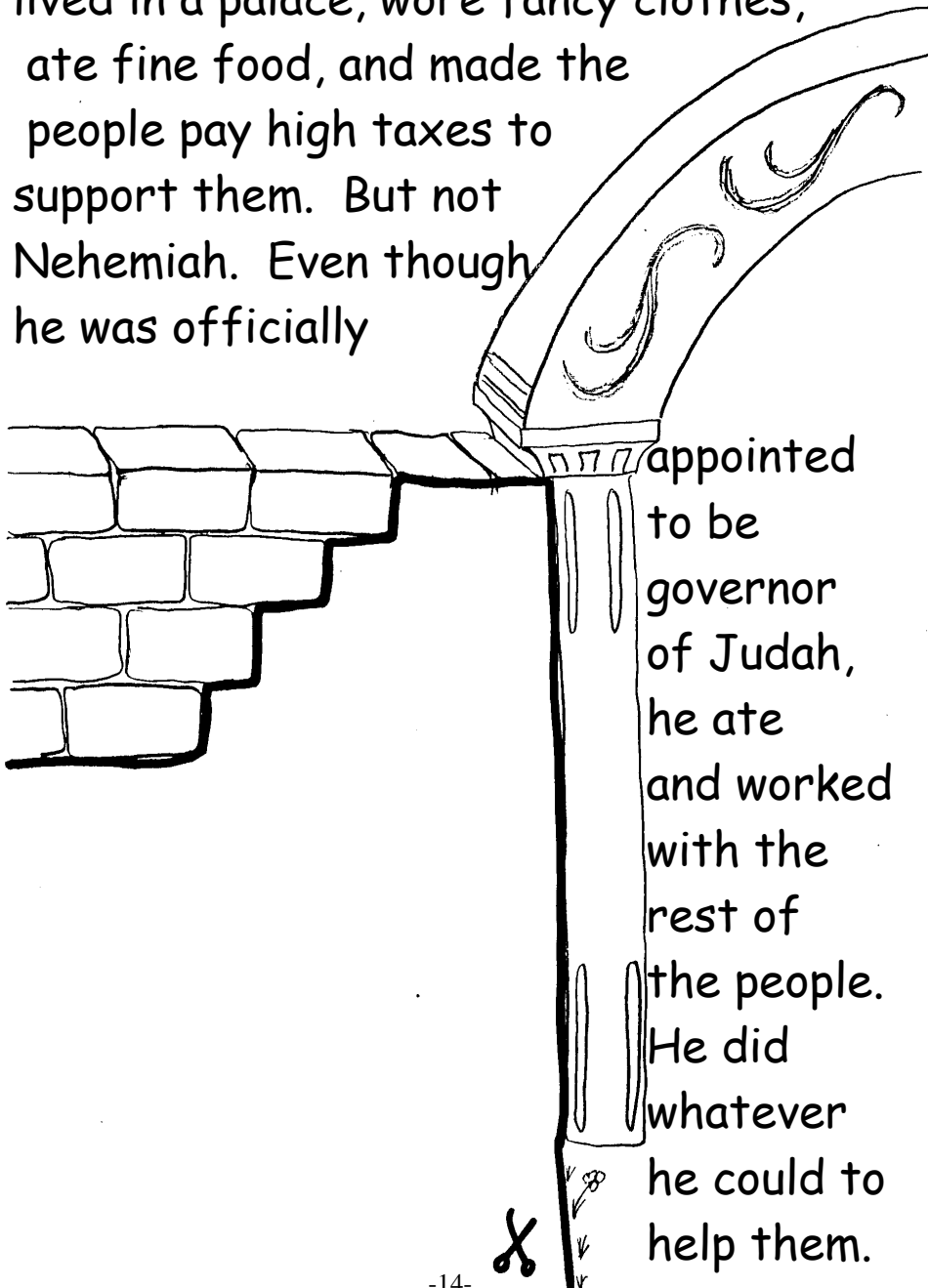
At one time I had been the solid and stately protector of Jerusalem, the finest city in the world - if I do say so myself. I was built in the early days of King Solomon and I stood tall and strong for almost 400 years - I think. (You loose count when you re as old as I am). It was Nebuchadnezzar s army that brought me to ruins. They broke me down, burned my gates, and took my people captive to Babylon. Then, after many years, I was surprised to see some of my people coming back. With Ezra leading the way, they rebuilt God s temple. They started to work on me, too, but they didn t get very far before some of our enemies came and wrecked everything.



Because of that, they listened to him and followed him with all their hearts.

Finally there were no more gaps left in me and it was time to set the doors in my gates, but our enemies were still causing trouble. They sent a message asking Nehemiah to come and meet with them in one of the villages outside Jerusalem. He sent the messenger back to say he could not leave his work. He called me a great project. Nobody's ever called me that before. I was flattered.

You know, I've seen a lot of kings and officials come and go. Most of them lived in a palace, wore fancy clothes, ate fine food, and made the people pay high taxes to support them. But not Nehemiah. Even though he was officially



appointed to be governor of Judah, he ate and worked with the rest of the people. He did whatever he could to help them.

Nehemiah was in Susa working for Artaxerxes, the ruler of the Persian empire. He asked some travelers about me and our people. When Nehemiah heard what a mess I was in, he was really upset. He even cried! I'm amazed that such an important man would care about me. He was the cupbearer, you know - for King Artaxerxes himself. A few days later, the king noticed how sad Nehemiah was, and asked him why. Nehemiah told him about me and how the whole city of Jerusalem was in ruins. Then King Artaxerxes allowed Nehemiah to come here to Jerusalem to rebuild.

But it wasn't going to be easy. Sanballat, governor of Samaria, and Tobiah, an official in Ammon saw him coming. They were very disturbed that someone would come to help the Israelites.

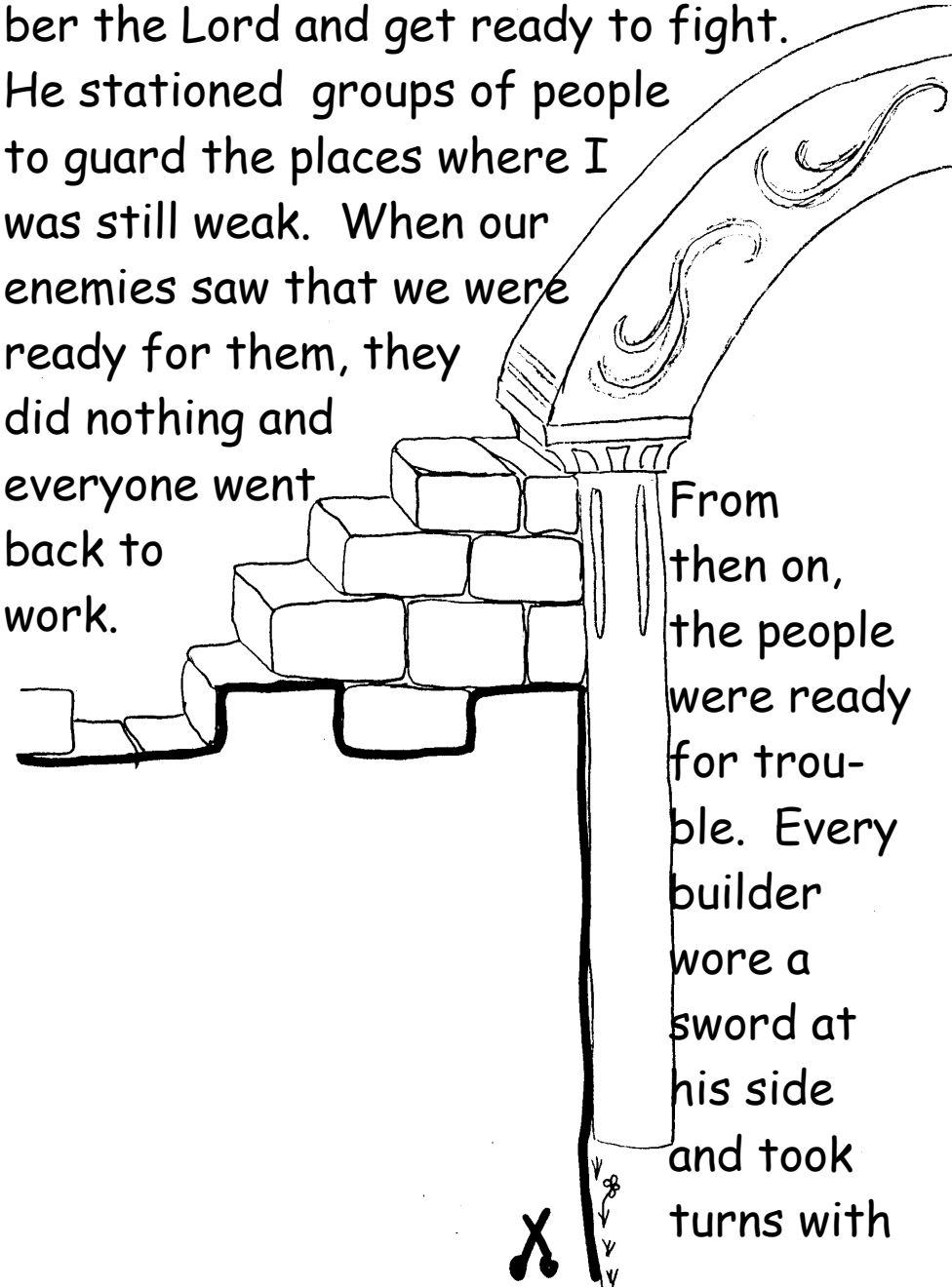
Nehemiah and a few other men came out to have a close look at me during the night. He examined my broken down walls and burned up gates. I was in terrible shape. Then he met with the leaders of the Jewish people. He said we were in trouble and that I was a disgrace. He urged them to join him and rebuild.

But Sanballat and Tobiah heard about the meeting. They made fun of Nehemiah's plan. But Nehemiah told them that our God would bring success.



the others - working and guarding. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other. They didn't look like any construction crew I've ever seen! As they worked on me, all spread out, they listened for the trumpet that would tell them if it was time to fight. Soon, I was almost finished as Nehemiah and all the men worked day and night. They didn't even go home to sleep - just leaned against me and took turns napping with their clothes on and their weapons in their hands.

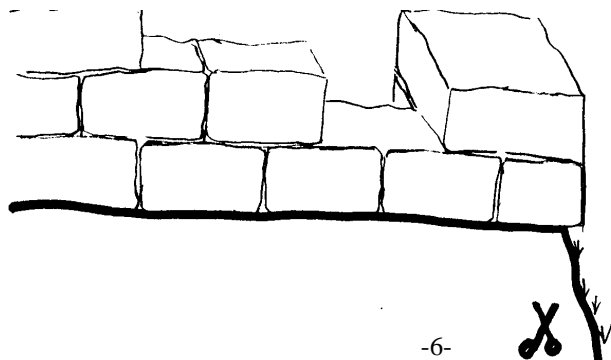
Then Nehemiah took action! What a guy!
He encouraged all the people to remember the Lord and get ready to fight.
He stationed groups of people to guard the places where I was still weak. When our enemies saw that we were ready for them, they did nothing and everyone went back to work.



From then on, the people were ready for trouble. Every builder wore a sword at his side and took turns with

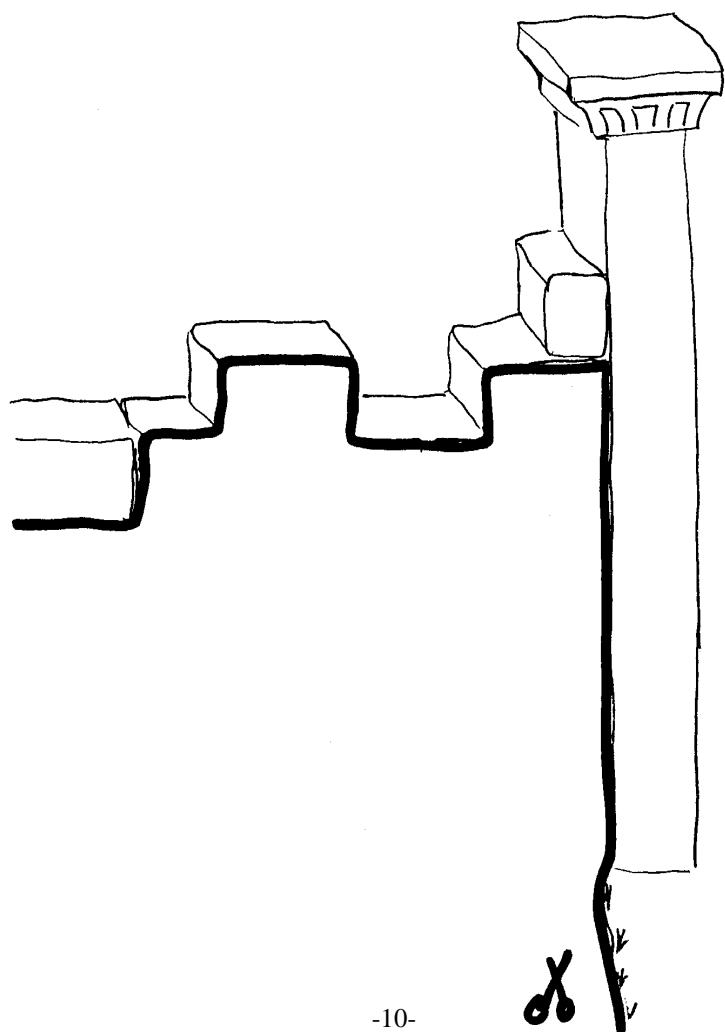


In the days that followed, a wonderful thing began to happen. Groups of people teamed up and started to work on me. It felt wonderful! I saw many folks come across from their home or shop to the place where I pass close by. It seemed like everyone started to build - from priests to perfume makers. Merchants and goldsmiths left their shops. Even Shallum's daughters helped! First a section of wall was repaired here; and a gate was bolted in place there. I began to feel like my old self again! I was especially proud of the men of Tekoa. Even though their noblemen wouldn't do any work, these



coming over to me and telling the builders over and over that they were going to be attacked. The workers became so afraid that I thought the building would soon stop. ..Not that I would blame them. Rebuilding me was an impossible job and they'd done their best.

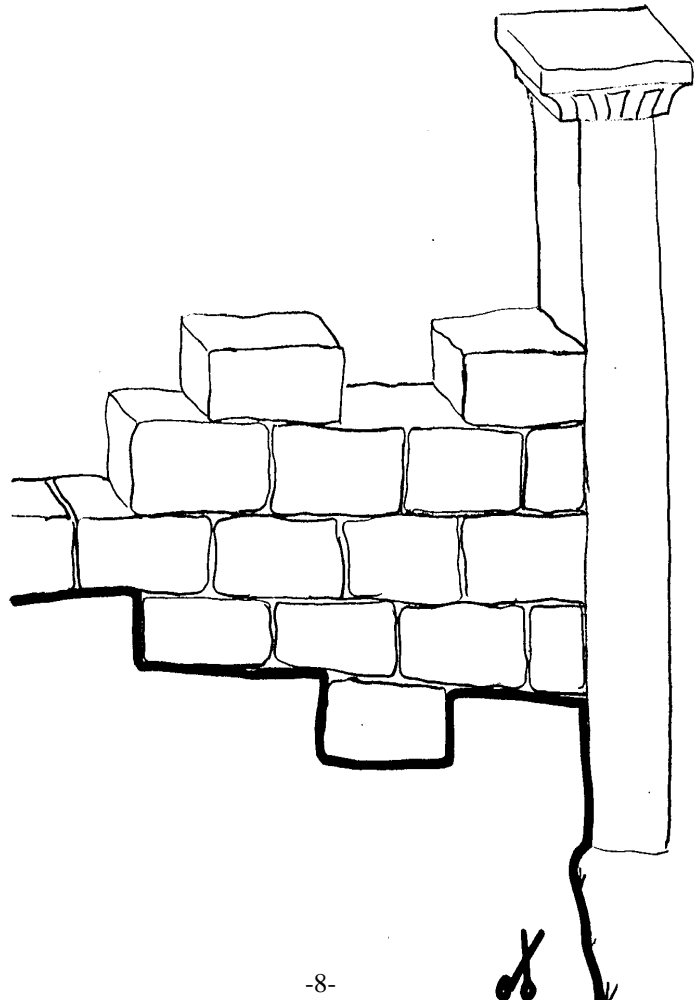
Nehemiah knew he had to do something. First, he prayed; then he posted guards day and night. But I began to hear the builders say they were beginning to get tired and discouraged. There was just so much



rubble. I felt like it was my fault. The Jews who lived near our enemies were

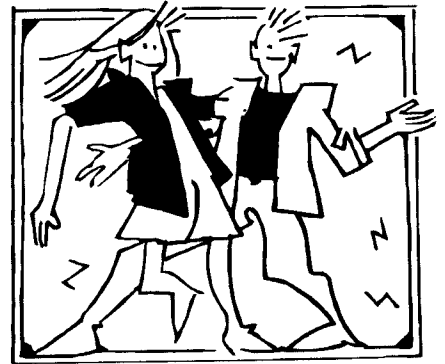
men finished their assigned section, and started to repair another! Of all the builders, no-one was more enthusiastic than Baruch, son of Zabbai.

But not everyone was happy for me. Sanballat was becoming more and more angry. He and Tobiah said terrible things. He called the people feeble and said that even if a fox climbed up on me, I would break down again. But I heard Nehemiah pray - that God

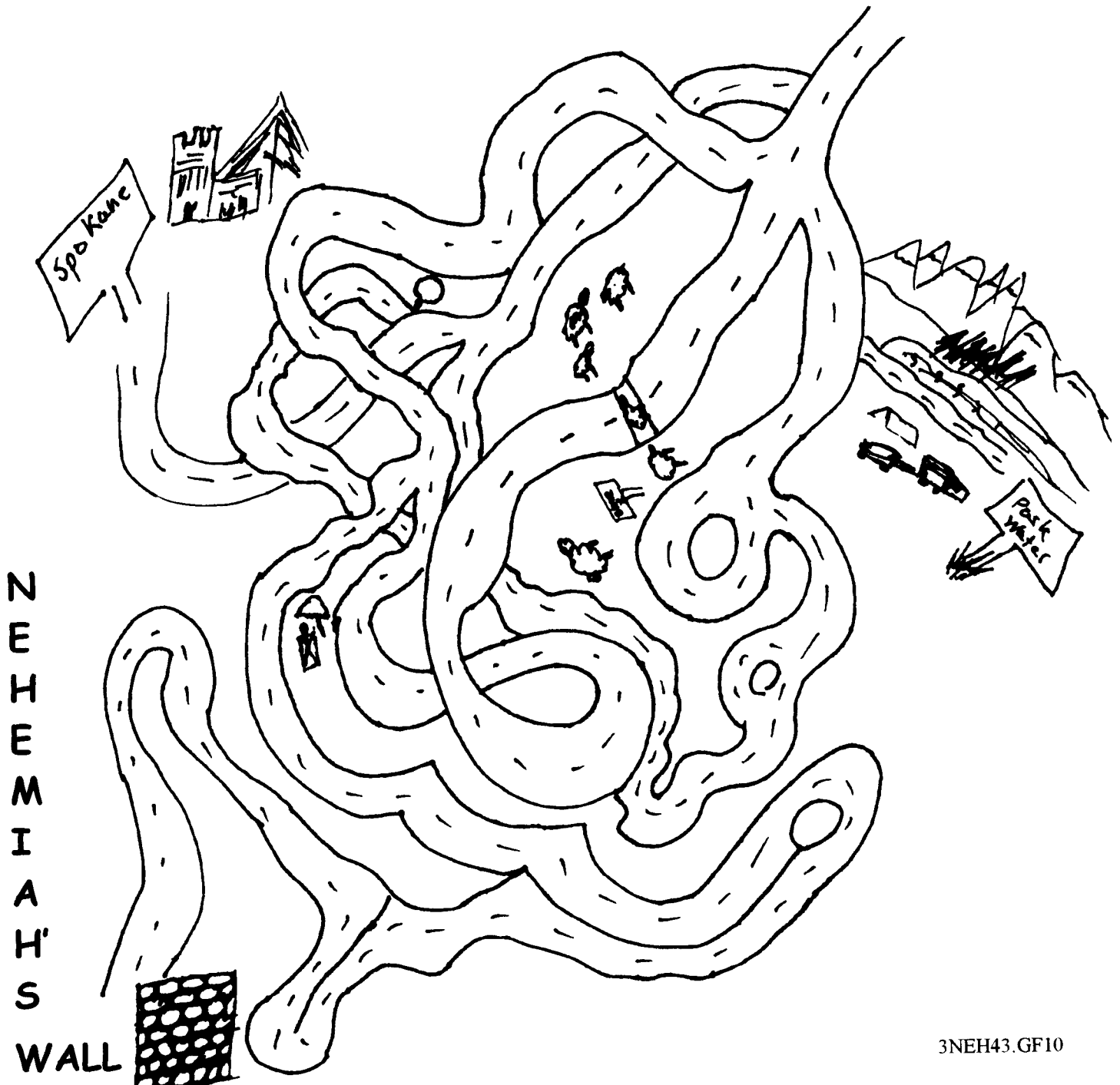


would take care of our enemies. And the people kept on working until I was about half finished. When Sanballat and Tobiah saw that the people were still building, and my gaps were closing up, they got together with the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the men of Ashdod. They all plotted to come and fight against Jerusalem. I was worried because I wasn't ready to protect them yet.

NEHEMIAH CHOSE TO GO
GOD'S WAY AND GOD BLESSED
HIM.. FIND YOUR WAY WITH
GOD'S HELP PAST THE DAN-
GERS TO THE WALL THAT GOD
ASKED NEHEMIAH TO BUILD.



ARE YOU READY TO
START ON THE WALK OF
LIFE OR ARE YOU MISSING
SOMETHING?





SANBALLAT & TOBIAS

*Families Working
Together*

