

FOR FAMILIES TO LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER IN JESUS

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Week of September 20, 2020



DIGGING INTO



Fruit of the Spirit: JOY

[Galatians 5:22-23](#); [Nehemiah 8:1-3, 10-12](#)

THE LESSON

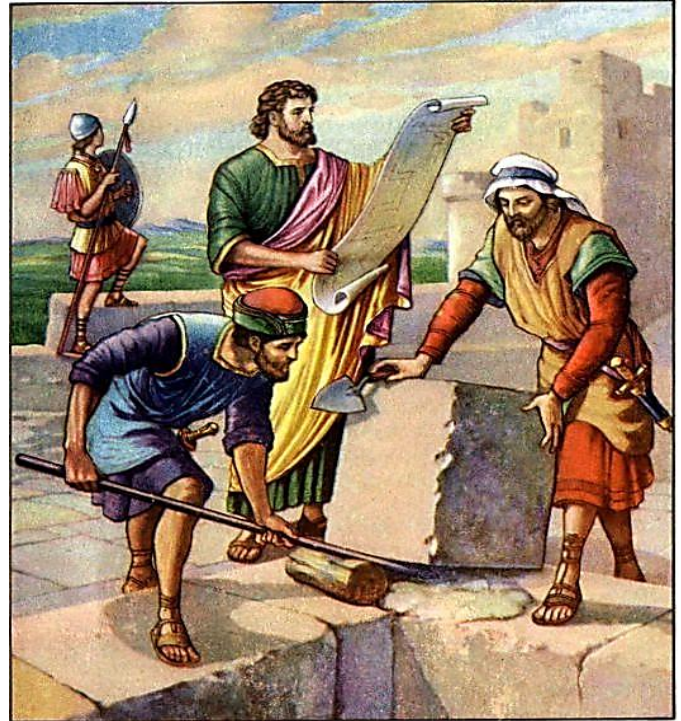
Nehemiah, an Israelite, is taken captive when Jerusalem is destroyed. He becomes the cupbearer to the King in Susa (the Persian capital). One day, Nehemiah learns that much of Jerusalem, the holy city of the Israelites, is still in bad shape and the walls of Jerusalem are not repaired. He prays to God, recalling the sins of Israel and God's promise to restore the land.

Nehemiah then asks his master, the king, if he can return to Jerusalem and rebuild its walls. The king says, "Yes!" and makes Nehemiah governor of Judah where Jerusalem is. The king even provides money and supplies for the work.

After a few setbacks, Nehemiah and others rebuild the wall in 52 days! When they finished Nehemiah has Ezra, the priest, read from God's Word. The people listen attentively and realize they have not been obeying God. They become sad and troubled. Nehemiah, however, tells them to celebrate because the joy of the Lord is their strength. Read more about it in the Bible verses above.

THE POINT

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit.



Let's talk about it

1. Why would Nehemiah be troubled by the bad condition of Jerusalem's walls?
2. Nehemiah wanted to fix the walls but needed his master's permission to go and do it. Nehemiah prayed to God, "Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man [the king]." How was Nehemiah's prayer answered?
3. How did God continue to show Nehemiah favor during the wall rebuilding project?
4. How did Nehemiah put God first when the time came to celebrate the wall's completion?
5. What do you think Nehemiah meant when he said, "The joy of the Lord is our strength"?
6. Do you think you have ever felt the joy of the Lord in your life? Share.

Learn More About Nehemiah



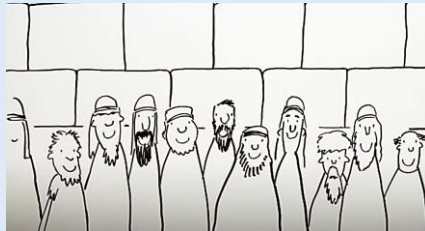
[Book of Nehemiah](#)



[Nehemiah](#)



[Jerusalem's Walls](#)



[Rebuilding the Walls](#)

You can find all the links and resources on this sheet plus even more activities on the **KIDS CLUB Family Resources** webpage.

www.stpaulmuskego.org



Heavenly Father, what a comfort to read of Nehemiah and the prophets of old who despite the difficulties and dangers that they were called upon to face, were able to rejoice in the Lord and trust in your never-failing faithfulness.

We pray that like Nehemiah and those who helped him, we too may receive your abiding joy and discover that the joy of the Lord is our strength and that the peace that comes from you helps us to overcome all difficulties of life, by the power of Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus we pray, Amen.

Family Together Time

As a family, make signs with smiley faces and the words of the Scriptures below. Hang the signs around the house as a reminder that the Spirit can fill you with joy!

- ❖ Romans 12:12
- ❖ Psalm 33:1
- ❖ Psalm 94:19
- ❖ Psalm 16:11
- ❖ Psalm 68:3
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:16



JOY IN AFRICA

Watch [JOY IN AFRICA](#), then discuss the questions below.

1. When people think about Zambia, Africa what usually comes to mind?
2. In Lusaka, the capitol of Zambia, there is the Chikumbuso school. Who are the students in this special school?
3. Why might these students feel down, upset, or sad?
4. What makes them feel happy and joyful instead?
5. Whose love and joy do they feel in their school?
6. Why is this story, "Joy in Africa" part of our lesson this week?
7. What can you learn from the Chikumbuso students?

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[Million Reasons](#)



[Trust in Jesus](#)



[Good in Every Way](#)