



STORY: NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER (Nehemiah 1)

This week onwards, we're looking at an Old Testament book of the Bible, named after a very short man ... he's only "knee-high" (Ne-hi-miah) *joke*

GOD'S PEOPLE IN EXILE

Remember when we studied Judges and saw how Israel was trapped in the cycle of sin? Well that cycle continued even when Israel was ruled by kings, resulting in the nation being divided, scattered and brought into exile (taken away as prisoners to a faraway land).

But even though God's people were unfaithful, God is always faithful and never abandoned them. In the years that passed, God raised up godly leaders to bring his people back to Jerusalem and to rebuild it. One of these godly leaders was a man called Nehemiah.

THE CUPBEARER

Nehemiah was a Jew in a foreign land. But he was given a very important position — he was the Persian king's cupbearer!

What's a cupbearer? (can illustrate with a cup of Ribena)

A high-ranking officer in royal courts, whose duty it was to serve the drinks at the royal table. The person must be regarded as thoroughly trustworthy to hold this position. He must guard against poison in the king's cup, and was sometimes required to swallow some of the wine before serving it. His confidential relations with the king often gave him a position of great influence.

THE BROKEN WALLS

Some time ago, the King of Persia allowed the Israelites in exile to return to their country. Many of Nehemiah's friends had gone back to Jerusalem then. One day, some of them, including Nehemiah's brother Hanani, came to visit Nehemiah in Persia.

Nehemiah was very keen to know how everyone was doing back in Jerusalem. But the report he received was not very good:

- Those who returned were in great trouble and disgrace
- The wall of Jerusalem was broken down
- The gates had been burned with fire





Lesson 1: NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

Imagine you are studying or staying overseas, and you hear this sort of report from home — that your family is in trouble, their house is broken and their gates have been burnt. How would you feel?

A city without walls! In those days, walls were a city's main protection against its enemies. Remember the wall around Jericho that Joshua and the Israelites had to march around? Have you seen the Great Wall of China? They help to keep enemies out and the city's people safe. A city without walls would be vulnerable to attacks and easily taken over. So it was a big deal that the grand city of Jerusalem did not have proper walls.

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

Nehemiah was very sad. He sat down and cried. He mourned and fasted and prayed.

In his prayer, he remembered who God was:

- A great and awesome God
- A God of Covenant of Love
- A God who hears His people's prayers

Nehemiah knew that God was a Promise-keeping God who keeps His covenant of love (Neh 1:5). (Under the Old Covenant, God's covenant was conditional, e.g. *"with those who love him and keep his commandments."* **Under the New Covenant, we receive His unconditional blessings because of Jesus,** and, in response, we love Him and keep His commandments.)

Nehemiah ended his prayer by asking God: *"Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man."*

Who's "this man"? The king of Persia

Nehemiah knew that if he wanted to do anything about the situation, he'd need the favour and blessings of the king. Nehemiah also knew that God had placed him in an influential position as cupbearer.

VIDEO

BrunstadTV Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZfXzzS3U-c> (IMPORTANT: end at 2:57 min)



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Lesson 1: NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

LESSON

GOD IS FAITHFUL AND GRACIOUS

God had punished the Jews by exile to Babylon due to their repeated sins ... yet by His grace, He brought them back to Jerusalem again.

God never forgot His people, despite their disobedience. He used pagan kings and various leaders, such as Nehemiah, to effect His plans and purposes — to bring back the people, to rebuild the temple and walls, and to give the Word to them.

He raised Nehemiah, a captive, up to a position of importance and influence — the 3rd most important man in Persia, with direct access to the king — for this very purpose.

NEHEMIAH WAS A SHADOW OF JESUS

As a cupbearer, Nehemiah was willing to take poison on behalf of the king.

Jesus is our Cupbearer: Jesus took the Cup of Punishment and Suffering on behalf of us (Matt 26:39).



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Lesson 2: THE CUPBEARER

HOOK

CUP-THEMED ICEBREAKER

e.g. Cup Stack: <http://youthgroupgames.com.au/games/495/cup-stack-relay/>



STORY: NEHEMIAH, THE CUPBEARER (Nehemiah 2)

Tell the story of Nehemiah and the King from Nehemiah 2.

(simplify for younger kids; do read the lesson plan for Neh 1 for background info, if you are unfamiliar with the character/book.)

We just started learning about an interesting character of the Bible. What was his name? *Nehemiah*

What was his job? *Cupbearer to the King.*

What's a cupbearer?

When Nehemiah heard the news about the broken walls and burnt gates of Jerusalem, he prayed and asked God for favour from the king.

One day, Nehemiah was doing his job as cupbearer with the king and queen. He took the wine and passed it to King Artaxerxes (get kids to repeat name: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hpc4r_oQR7g).

Normally, whenever you are in front of a king, no matter how you feel, you have to look happy. You cannot be long-faced, or the king might get angry with you.

But that day, Nehemiah was so troubled by the broken walls in Jerusalem that he could not hide it from his expression.

King Artaxerxes noticed and asked him, *"Why is your face sad, since you are not sick?"*

Nehemiah was afraid but told the king the reason. *"May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?"*

Then the king said to him, *"What do you request?"*

Wow! What favour. Not only was the king not angry with Nehemiah, but he asked him what he wanted.

Before he answered, Nehemiah quickly prayed to God. It's good to pray and ask God for guidance and wisdom in all things, so that we don't answer rashly or do things without thinking.

Then Nehemiah asked the king to send him back to Judah so that he can rebuild the walls.

The king asked, *"How long will your journey be? And when will you return?"*

Nehemiah had asked God for favour, and he had also done his homework in preparation for the trip. So he was able to give the king a time frame.



And he went on to ask the king for:

- Letters for the governors of the surrounding region so that they will give him safe passage through
- Letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so that he can get all the wood he needs to make beams for the city gates

Because the "good hand" (favour) of God was on him, the king granted all his requests. The king also sent army captains and horsemen to accompany Nehemiah back to Jerusalem!

VIDEO

BrunstadTV Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZfXzzS3U-c>

(IMPORTANT: stop at 5:08 min; you can start from beginning if many kids were absent last week, or start at 2:58)



LESSON

JESUS IS OUR FAVOUR

Nehemiah could not have done the huge task that's ahead of him without the blessings and favour of the king. The one thing he asked God for was for favour with the king, and the king not only granted him what he asked, but over and above.

Jesus made us righteous, so God's favour is upon us all the time! What is the task or challenge you are facing today? Commit it to the Lord and ask Him to show His favour.

Psalms 5:12 *"Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield."*

JESUS LEFT ALL HE HAD FOR US

Nehemiah left his high-ranking position in the king's courts to serve his people by overseeing the rebuilding of the wall.

Jesus gave up His position in heaven to come to earth as a man and die for us and to rebuild our broken lives. Thank you, Jesus!

Phil 2:5-7 *"... Christ Jesus ... Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being."*



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Lesson 2: THE CUPBEARER

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Cup-related craft/activity with "I am Highly Favoured" or "I am God's Favoured Child".

Pop quiz or worksheet (below).

SHARE & PRAY



Name:

Read Nehemiah 2:1-10

1. What was the king's name? Who else was with him?

2. What did the king notice about Nehemiah?

3. What did Nehemiah request from the king?

4. Nehemiah had done his homework. As soon as the king granted his request, he was able to give a time frame and make 2 other requests. What were they?

5. God had given Nehemiah favour with the king. What else did the king do?





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Lesson 3: THE WALL BUILDER

HOOK

SEARCHING THROUGH THE RUBBLE

Get kids to search through the “rubble” to find treasure.

e.g. Sieve through flour to find hidden coins; or go through lots of cards to find the “joker” etc. Encourage teamwork, strategy, leadership qualities etc from this exercise.



STORY: NEHEMIAH, THE WALL BUILDER (Nehemiah 2:11-20)

MEGA CHALLENGES

Time Lapse of Exchange 106 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdRvUgwQ_I

Have you seen any construction project in progress? These days, we have a lot of technology and machinery to help us build large structures. But can you imagine what it would have been like building a mega project like the walls of Jerusalem thousands of years ago? Nehemiah may not have had the most advanced technologies. But He had God, who helped him build the walls in just 52 days! Isn't that amazing?

But it wasn't easy from the start. In fact, when Nehemiah went to check on the walls, it was a great big mess!

Let's backtrack a little.

Nehemiah set off from Persia to Jerusalem. But he didn't make a grand entrance and announce to everyone his grand plans.

In fact, he stayed in Jerusalem for 3 days without doing anything about the wall. Probably he was checking out the situation on the ground for himself. "I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem," he said (vs. 12). That's probably wise — wait and see first instead of opening his mouth early on and risk other people sabotaging his plans or finding ways to discourage him.

After 3 days, late at night, he went out with a few others to the wall area. Only he rode a horse, while the rest walked. I guess they wanted to remain inconspicuous and not attract too much attention.

Jerusalem's walls had 10 gates. Nehemiah went to check out the Valley Gate to the Dung Gate and until the Fountain Gate. He saw the broken down walls and the gates that had been destroyed by fire.

Finally he reentered the city via the Valley Gate.

The officials, at that time, did not know where what he was doing because he had not yet said anything to anyone else about the work. After examining the walls, Nehemiah told them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." (vs. 17)

He also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

The officials agreed. "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.



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Lesson 3: THE WALL BUILDER

But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab (you'll hear these names often in the coming weeks) heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed Nehemiah. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"

Nehemiah answered them by saying, "***The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.***"

VIDEO

BrunstadTV Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZfXzzS3U-c>

(start from 5:08 min)



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Lesson 3: THE WALL BUILDER

LESSON

RESPONSE TO THE RUBBLE

The task was gigantic. The problem was huge. But when Nehemiah looked at the broken walls and burnt gates, he didn't see them as a "huge problem" or "impossible task". In fact, he saw it as a "good work" and knew that "God will give us success".

If you are looking at a huge mess in life — maybe it's your bedroom or your school work or your family issues or bullies at school, you'd be tempted to think it is impossible to fix.

But Jesus said, "With man, this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." (Mark 10:27)

JESUS, OUR WALL BUILDER

So don't focus on the problem. Focus on Jesus, our Wall Builder.

When you focus on the problem, the problem gets bigger. When you focus on Jesus, Jesus gets bigger!

When we look at the rubble, we don't have to fight and struggle in our own strength. We can rest in Jesus and totally depend on Him to help us out.

Whatever the problem, however bad the situation may be, we know Jesus will help us. He is our Wall Builder — He rebuilds the broken walls and clears the rubble for us! Hallelujah!



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Lesson 3: THE WALL BUILDER

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Brick-related craft/activity with *"The God of heaven will give us success."* Nehemiah 2:20

Pop quiz or worksheet (below).

SHARE & PRAY



Lesson 3: THE WALL BUILDER

Name: _____

Read Nehemiah 2:11-20

1. When did Nehemiah go to examine the walls of Jerusalem?

2. Name the gates that Nehemiah went through?

3. All these while, no one else knew Nehemiah's plan. But when he had examined the walls, who did he go to see? What did he tell them?

4. Who opposed Nehemiah?

5. But Nehemiah was not afraid because he knew that _____

6. Mark 10:27 _____





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Lesson 4a: THE SHEEP GATE

HOOK

Sheep-related icebreaker



STORY: Nehemiah 3: THE SHEEP GATE

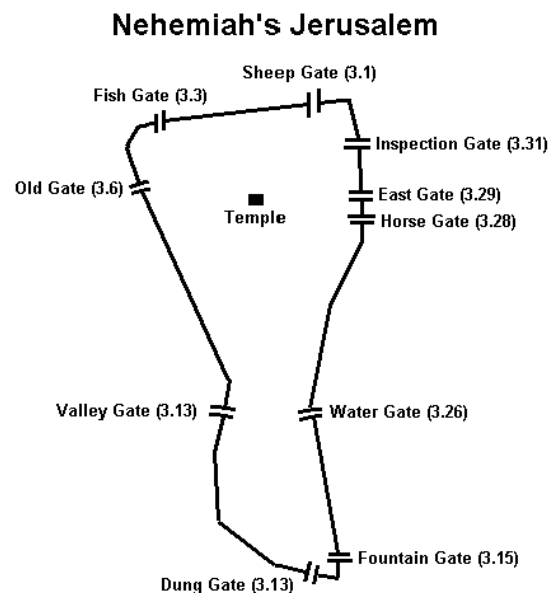
GOSPEL IN THE GATES

Once Nehemiah announced his plan to rebuild the wall, the work began.

There were 42 groups of people working on specific areas of the wall. Everybody could play a part — priests, leaders, craftsmen, Jews from other cities.

There were 10 gates mentioned in the rebuilding of the walls. There are the:

- Sheep Gate
- Fish Gate
- Old Gate
- Valley Gate
- Dung Gate
- Fountain Gate
- Water Gate
- Horse Gate
- East Gate
- Inspection Gate



Each gate has its own practical function. But they also have a spiritual significance — they give us a better understanding of who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

So for the next few weeks, we'll be taking a closer look at each gate and what they remind us of Jesus' finished work on the cross.



LESSON

SHEEP GATE

Neh 3:1 *Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built **the SHEEP GATE**; they consecrated it and hung its doors.*

The **SHEEP GATE** was the first gate to be restored, and it was rebuilt by the High Priest and his fellow priests. Note: This was the only gate that was consecrated (set apart as holy), as it was used for bringing in sacrifices for the temple.

It was called the **SHEEP GATE** because it was the entrance for sheep entering into the Temple compound from the sheep markets (where lambs were sold for sacrifice in the Temple) and the sheep pool (later known as Pool of Bethesda), where sheep were washed for sacrificing.

Thousands of years later, when Jesus was on earth, He would enter Jerusalem via the **SHEEP GATE** (except for the Triumphal Entry). The **SHEEP GATE** also led to Golgotha, the path Jesus took to the crucifixion.

THE SHEEP GATE REMINDS US OF:

- **Jesus's Sacrifice** — **Jesus is the Lamb of God** who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29) We have salvation through Jesus' death on the cross
- **Free & Easy Access** — just as the **SHEEP GATE** had no bolts or bars, anyone and everyone who enters through Jesus can freely receive His salvation.
- **Jesus is our High Priest** — The **SHEEP GATE** was built by the High Priest — Jesus' death opens the way for us and restores free access to the Father.
- The **SHEEP GATE** is mentioned at the start (v.1) and end (v.32) of the chapter — everything starts and ends with Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. **It's all about Jesus** and His finished work on the cross!

Have you come in through the **SHEEP GATE**?

<issue invitation and pray with the children who want to accept Jesus as the Lord>



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Lesson 4a: THE SHEEP GATE

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

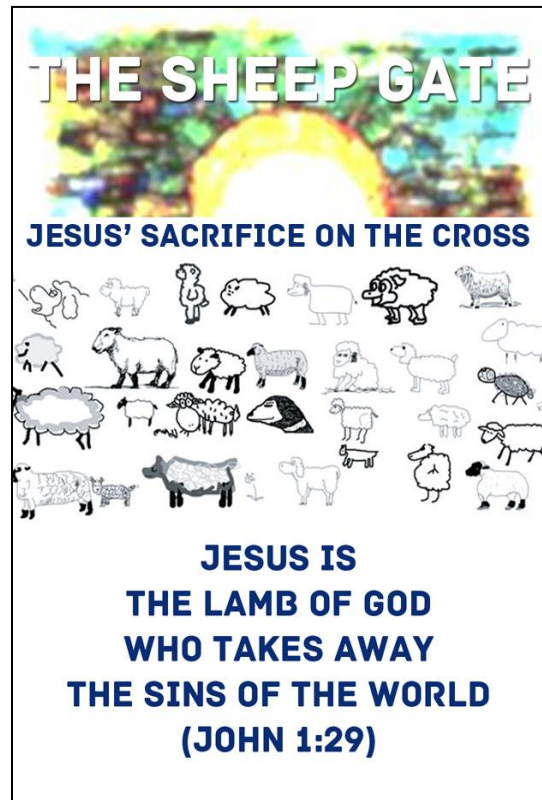
POSTER

Get kids to create a poster on the **SHEEP GATE** with the memory verse (John 1:29).

Idea: get kids to stick/draw pictures of sheep (or stick cotton wool on the sheep) on the poster; they can write their names next to each sheep.

The finished poster can be hung around the classroom.

SHARE & PRAY





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Lesson 4b: THE FISH GATE

HOOK

FISHING-RELATED ICEBREAKER

E.g.

Prepare cut-outs of paper fish or memory verse words. Attach paper clips to them. Tie a magnet to the end of a string on a stick. Get kids to “fish” for the cut-outs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErbM4l8655g>



STORY: Nehemiah 3: THE FISH GATE

RECAP

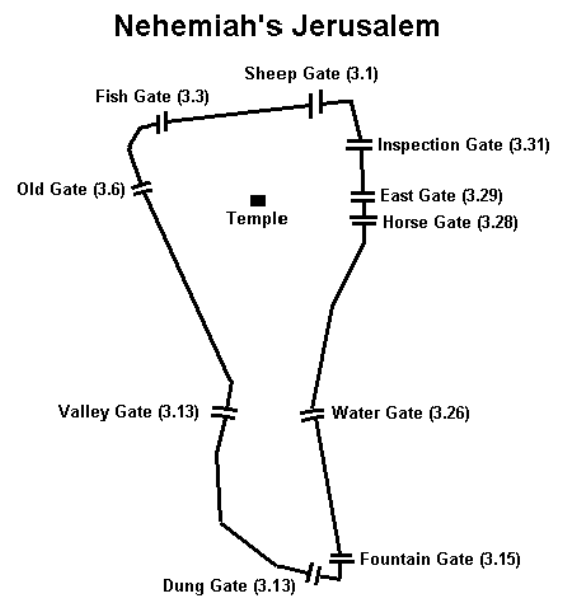
As we've been learning, Nehemiah got the people of Israel together to rebuild the wall. There were 42 groups of people working on specific areas of the wall. They were priests, leaders, craftsmen, Jews from other cities. Different groups worked on different portions of the wall.

There were 10 gates mentioned in the rebuilding of the walls.

Last week, we covered the **SHEEP GATE**. Anyone remembers why was it called the **SHEEP GATE**? Because it was the entrance for sheep entering into the Temple compound from the sheep markets (where lambs were sold for sacrifice in the Temple) and the sheep pool (later known as Pool of Bethesda), where sheep were washed for sacrificing.

What does the **SHEEP GATE** remind us of?
We are saved through Jesus's Sacrifice — *Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world* (John 1:29)

Today we are going to talk about the **FISH GATE**.





LESSON

FISH GATE

Neh 3:3 *The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.*

The **FISH GATE** was the second gate to be restored, and it was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah.

It was called the **FISH GATE** because the fishermen of Galilee will bring their catch through this gate to be sold.

THE FISH GATE REMINDS US OF:

- **Jesus's Death, Burial & Resurrection**

In Matthew 12:40, Jesus had told the people that, *"For as **Jonah** was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."* Jesus said this even before He was arrested and hung on the **cross** for us.

Do you remember Jonah? Jonah was a prophet who ran away from God because he did not want to go and tell the people of Nineveh to repent and turn to God. He hated the people of Nineveh and wanted God to punish them. But God prepared a fish to swallow Jonah and he was in the fish's belly for 3 days and 3 nights. When Jonah prayed to God, the fish vomited him on dry land.

Jonah finally went and told the people of Nineveh to turn to God, which they did and were saved from destruction.

Jonah lives 900 years before Jesus died and rose again. But even then, God used Jonah's encounter with the big fish as a picture that Jesus would die and rise again after 3 days to save the world from sin and death



- **God's Provision**

Do you remember when Jesus fed the 5,000 men? (Matthew 14:13-21)

What did He feed them with? *A little boy's lunch — 5 loaves and 2 small fish.* Jesus broke the bread and gave thanks to God, and His disciples distributed the food until everyone was fully fed, with 12 baskets leftover!



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Lesson 4b: THE FISH GATE

And remember when Jesus was talking to some fishermen? (Luke 5:1-10)

They had fished all night but caught no fishes. But Jesus told them to let their nets down again. And this time, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break and their boats began to sink!

The **FISH GATE** reminds us that Jesus always provides all our needs ... over abundantly!

- **Our Calling**

Right after the net-breaking, boat-sinking catch, Jesus told the fishermen, *“Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”* So Peter and his brother Andrew pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. (Luke 5:11)

Cref. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” (Matthew 4:19)

We have experienced Jesus’ grace and salvation. We have received His blessings and provision. Now we can be fishers of people — to share the good news of Jesus with our friends, our families, and the whole world!

Who can you share the good news of Jesus with?

<get kids to share some names and pray together for them>



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Lesson 4b: THE FISH GATE

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

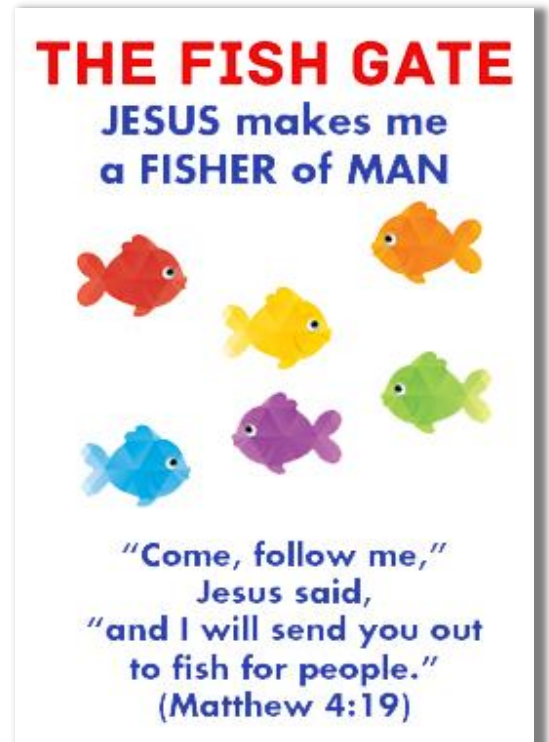
POSTER

Get kids to create a poster on the **FISH GATE** with the memory verse *"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."* (Matthew 4:19)

Idea: get kids to stick the fish cut-outs/origami with names of people they want to share Jesus to on the poster.

The finished poster can be hung around the classroom.

SHARE & PRAY





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Lesson 4c: THE OLD GATE

HOOK

METAMORPHOSIS OF A BUTTERFLY

(use pictures/props to illustrate; for younger kids, can use Dr Seuss' "My, O My, A Butterfly" or "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" books)

This morning I have brought a butterfly. Just look at my butterfly! Isn't it beautiful? I think the butterfly is one of the most beautiful things that God has ever created. But it wasn't always so beautiful.

As you probably know, the butterfly started out as a fuzzy little caterpillar. Now some people may think caterpillars are cute, some may think that they are funny, but probably no one would say that they are beautiful. A caterpillar is a worm — and worms are not beautiful!

Then, one day the caterpillar spins a cocoon about itself and stays there for several weeks. When it comes out, it is no longer a caterpillar, it has been miraculously changed into a beautiful butterfly — a brand new creation!



STORY: Nehemiah 3: THE OLD GATE

RECAP

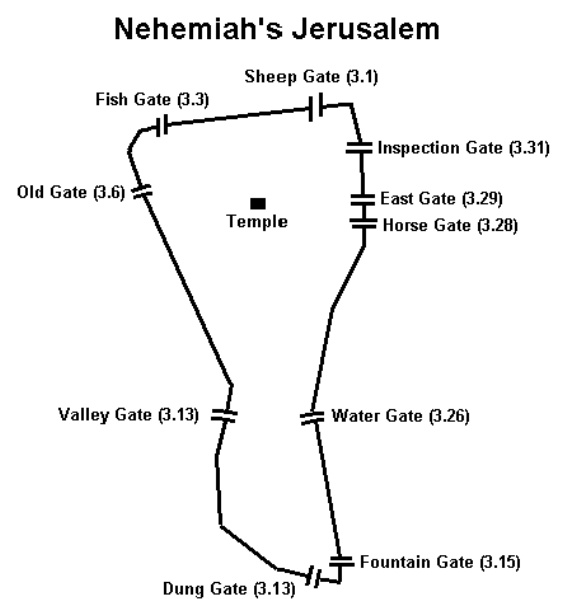
As we've been learning, Nehemiah got the people of Israel together to rebuild the wall. There were 42 groups of people working on specific areas of the wall. They were priests, leaders, craftsmen, Jews from other cities. Different groups worked on different portions of the wall.

There were 10 gates mentioned in the rebuilding of the walls.

So far, we covered:

- the **SHEEP GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
- the **FISH GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus has blessed us with so much, that we can be Fishers of Men and share His blessings with others.

Today, we are looking at the 3rd gate — the **OLD GATE**.
(also known in some versions as "Jeshanah", which means "old")





LESSON

OLD GATE

Neh 3:6 *The **Old City Gate** was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid the beams, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars.*

The **OLD GATE** was where the elders of the city would meet to discuss community matters and settle disputes (Joshua 20:4, Ruth 4:11, Proverbs 31:23).

THE OLD GATE REMINDS US OF:

- **Jesus fulfilled the OLD Covenant and began the NEW Covenant**
(optional for younger classes)

The Old Covenant that God made with Moses and the Israelites demanded perfect obedience to God's perfect law — obey fully and be blessed; disobey just 1 of the laws and be cursed. The people of Israel could never fulfill the Old Covenant. They kept trying and failing and faced judgement/punishment of death.

Jesus was the only man who could obey the Old Covenant Law fully, and He did so on our behalf. He also took the judgement and punishment of our disobedience/failures when He died for us on the Cross. His death began the New Covenant — all who believed in Him will not die (what we deserved) and will experience God's abundant blessings (that Jesus deserved).

- **Our OLD sinful self has gone; we are a NEW Creation**

The gates of Jerusalem were burnt down and in disrepair. But Joiada and Meshullam laid the beams, set up the doors, and installed the bolts and bars to make the broken **OLD GATE** new again!

Similarly, when we believe in Jesus, we become a New Creation in Christ! We are no longer the old, dirty, sinful person we used to be ... we are brand new in Jesus!

*2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; **old things have passed away**; behold, **all things have become new**.*

Just like the butterfly — God didn't just take a caterpillar and stick some wings on him and paint the wings all different colors. When the cocoon opens and the butterfly crawls out, it is a **new creation**. The caterpillar is gone! It has now become a butterfly.



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Lesson 4c: THE OLD GATE

When we invite Jesus to come into our heart, we become a **new creation**. God doesn't just clean us up and slap on a little paint, he makes us into a new person.

Would you rather be, a worm or a butterfly? Jesus will make you into a new creation if you will invite him into your heart.

Dear Lord, we thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross so that we, like the butterfly, can become a new creation. We ask you to change us and to make us beautiful. Amen.

(ref source: <http://www.sermons4kids.com/butterfly.html>)



ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

POSTER

Get kids to create a poster on the **OLD GATE** with the memory verse *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* (2 Cor 5:17)

Some butterfly ideas:

<https://www.google.com.my/search?q=%22new+creation%22+butterfly+crafter&client=firefox-a&hs=hTa&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&channel=sb&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=YSqDU4bxJoTJkwXxvYDYDg&ved=0CE8QsAQ&biw=1920&bih=946>

The finished poster can be hung around the classroom.

THE OLD GATE

JESUS MAKES US NEW



2 COR 5:17
THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST,
HE IS A NEW CREATION;
OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY;
BEHOLD, ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW.

SHARE & PRAY



HOOK

INTRODUCING VALLEYS

A valley is a lower part in the land, between two higher parts which might be hills or mountains.

Some ideas:

Egg carton craft



Letter M

The letter M looks like 2 tall Mountains, and in between the mountains is a Valley.

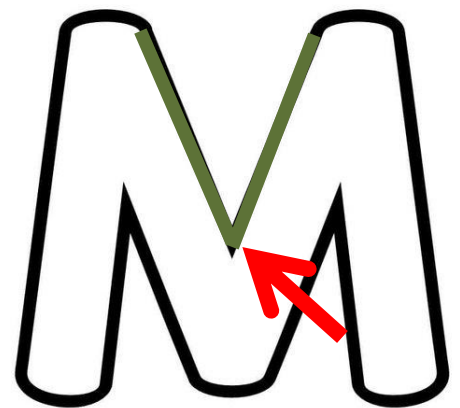
Sandbox

Using sand, make a tall mound. Now slowly pour a little water on top of the mound. Let it drain and pour more water.

Repeat the process several times. Chances are, the water is draining in one particular spot.

In that area, the water has washed out the sand or dirt, creating a V-shaped valley.

This is one of the ways that valleys are formed on the Earth too.





STORY: Nehemiah 3: THE VALLEY GATE

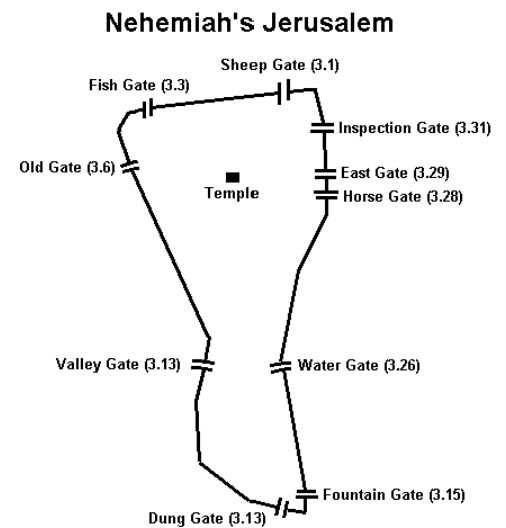
RECAP

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- the **OLD GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus makes us New Creations



Today, we are looking at the 4th gate — the **VALLEY GATE**.



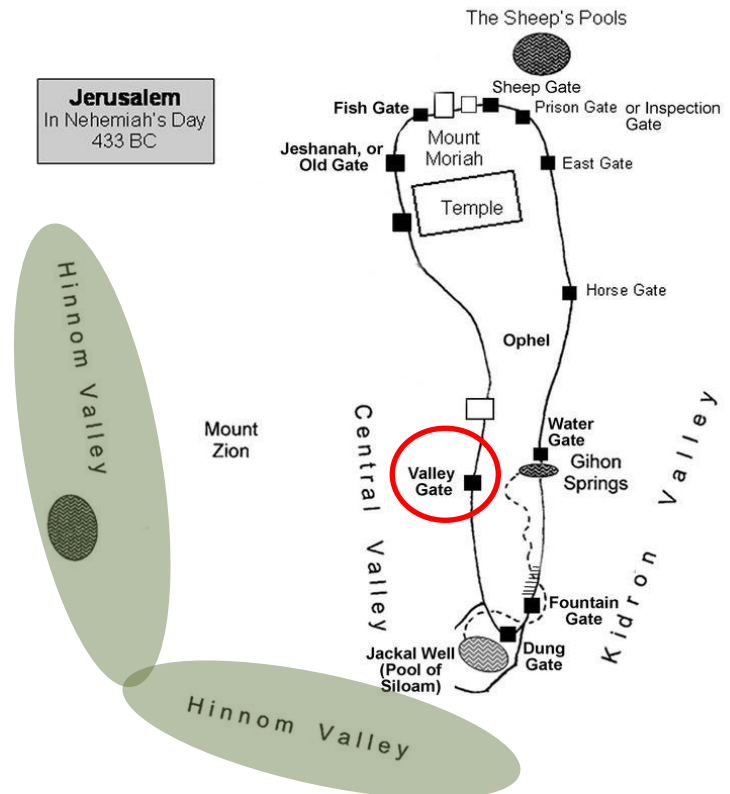
LESSON

VALLEY GATE

Neh 3:13 *Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired **the Valley Gate**. They built it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars,*

When Nehemiah first went to examine the walls of Jerusalem, he went out through the **VALLEY GATE** (Neh 2:13)

The Valley Gate is probably named that because it overlooked the Hinnom Valley, one of the several valleys surrounding Jerusalem.



Extra info:

In Jeremiah's time, the Hinnom Valley was associated with the worship of idols.

Later, the Hinnom Valley was the place for burning rubbish and corpses of criminals and animals, until its name became used as a symbol of hell.



THE VALLEY GATE REMINDS US THAT:

- **The Valley may be dark and dangerous ...**

A valley can be a beautiful place with streams of water, but it is often seen as a dark and dangerous place too.

Because the surrounding hills/mountains block the sunlight and cast shadows, the valley can get quite dark. And the sheep and people walking through the valley are often vulnerable to predators and robbers hiding in the hills/mountains.

Mountaintops are usually associated with victory, success or good times (e.g. "I'm on the top of the world!"). But when we talk about valleys, we normally associate them with the difficult and challenging times in life. All of us will go through difficult times. Our parents will go through difficult times. Sometimes it's bad health, school issues, friend issues, parent issues, money issues. Usually, these will make us feel sad, tired, angry or afraid.

- **But Jesus is with us in the Valley!**

In Psalm 23, David (the shepherd boy who became king) writes about the Good Shepherd and how He takes care of the sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and we are all like the helpless little sheep. The Good Shepherd takes care of the sheep, provides for their needs, brings them to green pastures and cool waters.

David writes, *"Though I walk through the **valley of the shadow of death**, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."* (Psalm 23:4)

Doesn't the *"valley of the shadow of death"* sound scary? Not just valley, but a valley of shadows; not just shadows, but shadows of death! After all, death can be a really scary thought.

But did the sheep feel scared? No! Why not? Because the Good Shepherd is with Him.

Yes, we don't have to be afraid when we go through valleys. Because Jesus is with us. His rod and His staff comfort us. Whatever difficult and tough times we go through, Jesus is there to take care of us and to protect us, and He will bring us through the valley!

The Valley Gate reminds us that Jesus is with us in the Valley!



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Lesson 4d: THE VALLEY GATE

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

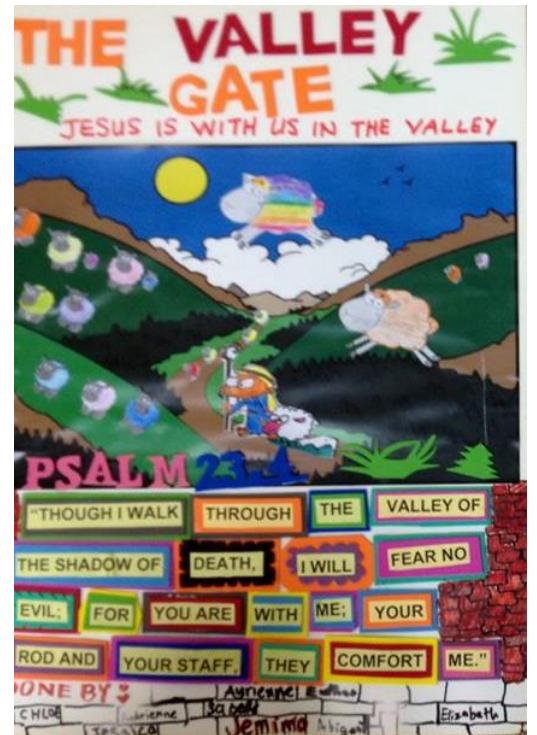
POSTER

Get kids to create a poster on the **VALLEY GATE** with the memory verse *“Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”* (Psalm 23:4)

The finished poster can be hung around the classroom.

SHARE & PRAY

What Valleys are you walking through now?





HOOK

MY GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS

Get kids to write down their greatest achievement on a piece of paper.

(E.g. I was the fastest runner in my year. I scored 10/10 for spelling etc.)

Choose a few kids to share what they wrote down to the rest.

Then get the kids to fold their piece of paper in aeroplanes.

Divide them into 2 groups; 1 rep from each group to hold a wastepaper basket.

The rest line up in their groups and try to fly their paper aeroplanes into their group's wastepaper basket.

The group with the most aeroplanes in their wastepaper basket wins.

For younger kids, can get them to throw line up and throw the colourful plastic balls into the box etc instead.



STORY: Nehemiah 3: THE RUBBISH GATE

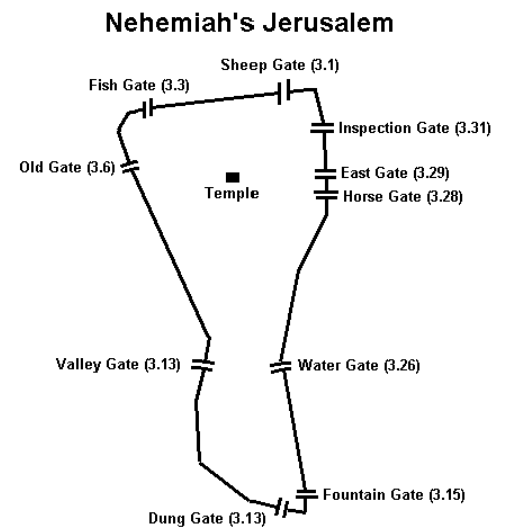
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- the **OLD GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus makes us New Creations
- the **VALLEY GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus is always with us, even in the valleys



Today, we are looking at the 5th gate — the **RUBBISH/REFUSE/DUNG GATE**.



LESSON

RUBBISH GATE

Neh 3:14 *Malchijah the son of Rechab, leader of the district of Beth Haccerem, repaired **the Refuse Gate**; he built it and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.*

When Nehemiah first went to examine the walls of Jerusalem, he went out through the Valley Gate until the Refuse Gate (Neh 2:13), where he saw the broken walls and burnt gates.

The gate was named “Refuse” (or “Rubbish” or “Dung”) probably because it was where all the icky, yucky stuff — the garbage, ash, and, yes, poop (from animals etc) — from the temple and the city was removed to the Valley of Hinnom and burned.

THE RUBBISH GATE REMINDS US THAT:

- **All our GOOD is like rubbish**

Let me tell you about a man named Saul. Saul was a high achiever, no, an overachiever! Whatever he did, he had to be the best! And Saul wanted to be the best Jew — he wanted to live up to God’s high standard — dot all the “i”s, cross all the “t”s, check all the boxes.

For example (Phil 3:4-6), Saul was circumcised on the eighth day, like all good Jewish babies were.

He was a true blue Jew, from the tribe of Benjamin.

He was a Pharisee — a religious leader who prided themselves in keeping strictly to God’s laws; as far as the religious laws were concerned, he considered himself faultless. He thought by keeping the laws, he can be right before God — he can earn his place in heaven.

He was zealous for God — he persecuted the Christians and dragged them off to prisons because he considered them a threat to Judaism — how can Jesus claim to be God?!

But one day (Acts 9), when Saul was on his way to Damascus to hunt down some Christians and take them as prisoners, suddenly, a bright light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus,” the voice said. Jesus told Saul to go to Damascus. When Saul got up from the ground, he realized he was blind! He had to be led by hand into Damascus. He didn’t eat or drink for 3 days.



Then God asked a believer, Ananias, to go see Saul and pray for him. Even though Ananias was afraid (he knew Saul came to hunt down Christians), he went and placed his hand on Saul. Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again.

Saul later changed his name to Paul — he became the champion of the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the Gentiles (people who are not Jews).

Through all these, Paul realized that all his good, all his law-keeping, would not get him to heaven. Instead, only Jesus could make him really good.

That's why he wrote in **Phil 3:7-9**: *But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and **count them as rubbish**, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith*

Imagine that! All his achievements, all his accomplishments, all the good things he did, all the laws he kept — Paul said he now considered them “rubbish” (or “dung” in some versions)!

Just like how we wrote down our biggest accomplishments and threw them into the wastepaper basket/dustbin ... Paul threw all his accomplishments into the dustbin too.

JESUS IS OUR BIGGEST GAIN

Paul said all that because he realised that all he needed was Jesus.

Paul realized that he could not become righteous (right with God) on his own efforts. (That'll be like trying to shoot our paper aeroplane/ball to reach the moon.)

It is only through faith in Jesus' finished work on the cross that he could be right before God. Jesus' good was sooooo good ... that everything else compared with it is like rubbish!

For example, say we have a super powerful flashlight. But even the most super powerful flashlight in the world is nothing compared to the light of the sun. If we bring our super powerful flashlight outside at noon time, we won't even see its light (it's as if it's not even on) because the sun's light is overpowering.

That's how our good and our achievements are compared to Jesus and what He has done.

The RUBBISH Gate reminds us that all our good is RUBBISH compared with knowing Jesus!

All we really need is Jesus!



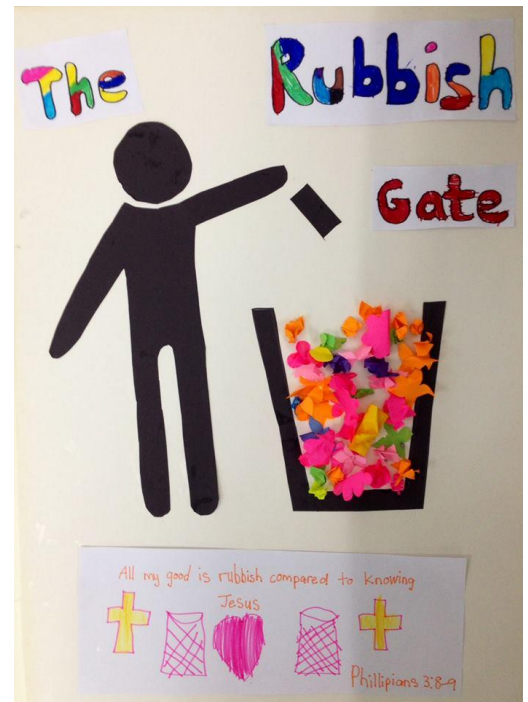
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Lesson 4e: THE RUBBISH GATE

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

POSTER

Get kids to create a poster on the **RUBBISH GATE** with the memory verse *"All my good are like RUBBISH compared to knowing Jesus!"* (Phil 3:7-9)



SHARE & PRAY



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Lesson 4f: THE FOUNTAIN GATE

HOOK

ACTION SONG

Deep and Wide (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYUPR7vt68w>)

Teach actions; omit words at each round and go faster and faster and faster!

Can work for all ages

FOUNTAIN-THEMED EXPERIMENT (optional)

e.g. <http://www.learnwithplayathome.com/2012/07/science-for-kids-water-bottle-fountain.html>

or

<http://teachbesideme.com/fantastic-foamy-fountain/>



STORY: Nehemiah 3: THE FOUNTAIN GATE

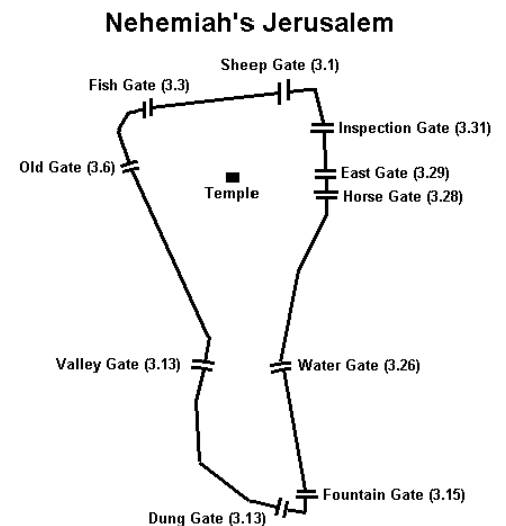
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- the **OLD GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus makes us New Creations
- the **VALLEY GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus is always with us, even in the valleys
- the **RUBBISH GATE:**
reminds us that all our good is rubbish compared to knowing Jesus



Today, we are looking at the 6th gate — the **FOUNTAIN GATE**.



LESSON

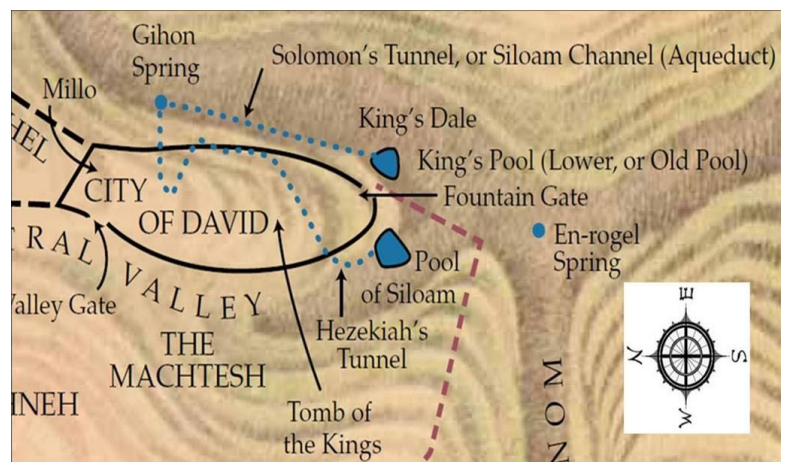
FOUNTAIN GATE

Neh 3:14 *The **Fountain Gate** was repaired by Shallun son of Kol-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofing it over and putting its doors and bolts and bars in place. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam, by the King's Garden, as far as the steps going down from the City of David.*

When Nehemiah first went to examine the walls of Jerusalem, the **FOUNTAIN GATE** was the one most in ruins.

It is located near the pool of Siloam (where Jesus later healed a blind man).

The Gate was named "**FOUNTAIN GATE**" as it was the primary access to the fountain, the Gihon Spring, from which the city of Jerusalem received its supply of fresh, clean water.



THE FOUNTAIN GATE REMINDS US THAT:

- **Jesus gave me the Holy Spirit**

In **John 4**, Jesus met a Samaritan woman at a well and asked for some water to drink. Jesus then told her about "living water" that only comes from God.

*"But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him **a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**" (John 4:14)*

The physical water we drink quenches us, refreshes us and cleanses our body's system ... but only temporarily. After a while, we will feel thirsty and dehydrated again and need to drink some more.

What is this living water Jesus speaks about and promised that we will not be thirsty again?
What is it that will become a fountain of water?

This is the **Holy Spirit**.



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Lesson 4f: THE FOUNTAIN GATE

When Jesus was on earth, He was in a man's body. He could only be in one place at one time. After Jesus died and rose again, He went back to heaven. But He promised to send us the Holy Spirit to be our comforter and guide.

Because Jesus made us clean, today, this Holy Spirit can come and stay in us forever! All of us can have this Holy Spirit in our hearts always ... wherever we are.

Like a glass of water, the Holy Spirit gives us life — God's eternal life! Like a glass of water, the Holy Spirit satisfies us, refreshes us and cleanses us from all the dirt that we have.

Just like the Gihon Spring provides water (and life) to the whole city of Jerusalem, this Holy Spirit life springs up in us like a fountain, blessing all those around us.

Thank you Jesus for giving us your Holy Spirit!



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Lesson 4f: THE FOUNTAIN GATE

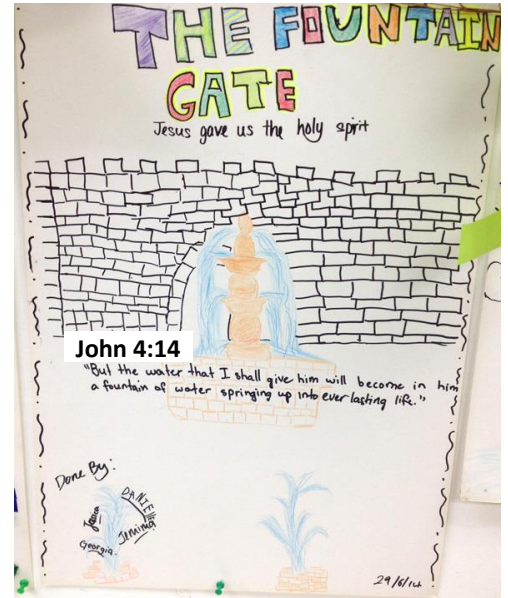
ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

POSTER

Get kids to create a poster on the **FOUNTAIN GATE** with the words:

Jesus gave me the Holy Spirit!

"The water Jesus gives me becomes a fountain of everlasting life."



SHARE & PRAY



HOOK

ACTION SONG (for younger kids)

*This is the way we wash our face, wash our face, wash our face,
This is the way we wash our face,
So early in the morning.*

*This is the way we clean our hands, clean our hands, clean our hands,
This is the way we clean our hands,
So early in the morning.*

*This is the way we brush our teeth, brush our teeth, brush our teeth,
This is the way we brush our teeth
So early in the morning.*

*This is the way we comb our hair, comb our hair, comb our hair,
This is the way we comb our hair,
So early in the morning.*

Why do we do all that? *To make ourselves clean.*

What is one important thing we need to clean ourselves up? *Water!*

Water is very important. It cleans us up inside (drinking) and outside (washing/bathing).

Today we're going to look at the Water Gate and what it reminds us about Jesus.



STORY: Nehemiah 3: THE WATER GATE

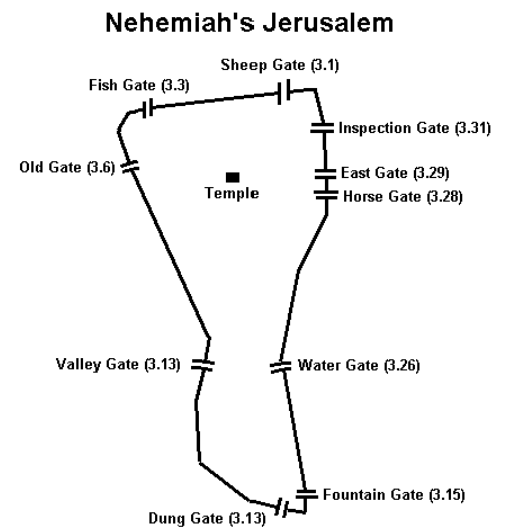
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- the **OLD GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus makes us New Creations
- the **VALLEY GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus is always with us, even in the valleys
- the **RUBBISH GATE:**
reminds us that all our good is rubbish compared to knowing Jesus
- the **FOUNTAIN GATE:**
Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit



Today, we are looking at the 7th gate — the **WATER GATE**.



LESSON

WATER GATE

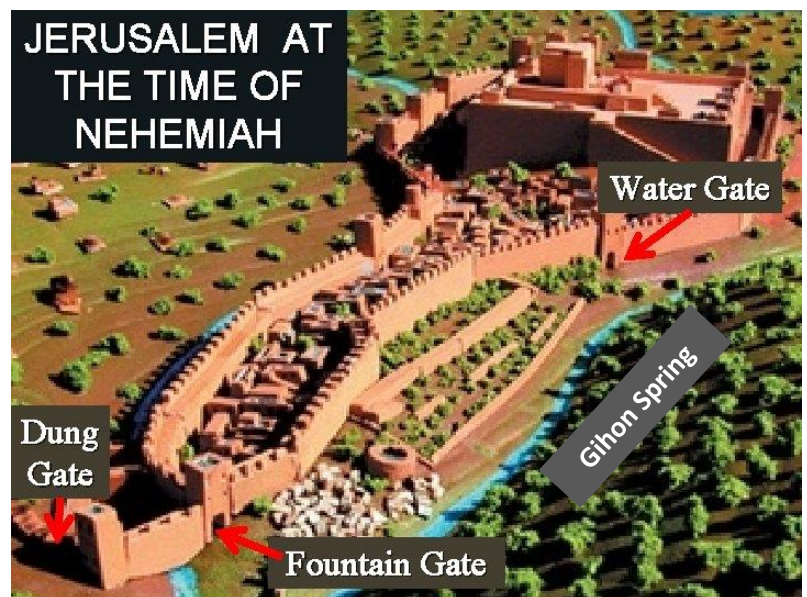
Neh 3:26 *Moreover the Nethinim who dwelt in Ophel made repairs as far as the place in front of the **Water Gate** toward the east ...*

Like the Fountain Gate, the **WATER GATE** was close to the source of the city's water supply (Gihon Spring).

It opened up to where Solomon's Temple was.

The Water Gate was also where the Law of Moses was read by Ezra to the Israelites after the wall had been completed.

(Neh 8:1 *Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the **WATER GATE**; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded Israel.)*



THE WATER GATE REMINDS US THAT:

- **Jesus washes us clean with His word**
How many of you have attended a wedding before? What do you expect to see? *Get kids to share, e.g. decorations, flowers, candles etc.*



Now, just imagine ... the emcee announces for everyone to rise for the bridal procession. The music starts playing, the flower girls walk in, throwing petals, and then ... the bride enters ... but she looked as if she had just come out of a pig sty! Her face is dirty, her hair is messy, her dress is stained and torn.

That would be quite horrible, right? How do you think people would react? How would the groom respond?



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Lesson 4g: THE WATER GATE

Well, when Jesus came to look for us, He found us looking very dirty and grubby and smelly, too. He didn't turn around and run away as far as He could.

No, He loved us soooo much that He gave His own life for us to rescue us from the dump that we were in.



And the good news is ... Jesus didn't just rescue us and leave us in the same dirty, grubby and smelly condition. No. He took us, washed us, cleaned us up, dressed us in the finest garments, presenting us as a beautiful, perfect bride.

Eph 5:25-27 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, **cleansing her by the washing with WATER through the word**, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

How does Jesus make us clean? By washing us with the **WATER** of His word.

The more we listen to the word about Christ, and hear about what He has done for us, we are being washed clean — our faith grows (Romans 10:17), our minds are renewed and our lives are transformed (Romans 12:2).

Why do we talk so much about the gates of Jerusalem? Because every part of the Bible tells us about Jesus and what He has done for us — E.g. He is the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world; He blessed us to be a blessing; He made us New Creations; He is always with us; He is all we need; and He gave us the Holy Spirit ... <help kids associate with the different gates>

The **WATER GATE** reminds us that Jesus washed us clean with His word — we are changed from dirty, smelly and grubby sinners to beautiful and perfect children of God! Thank you Jesus!



ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

POSTER

Get kids to create a poster on the **FOUNTAIN GATE** with the words:
"Jesus loved me and washed me clean with His word."

Idea: water painting over crayon/wax



SHARE & PRAY





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Lesson 4h: THE HORSE GATE

HOOK

PIN THE TAIL ON THE HORSE (for younger kids)

Instead of donkey, have a picture of a horse. Blindfold kids and have them pin/stick the tail on the horse. The one who pins the tail closest to the correct spot wins.

ARM WRESTLING MATCH

Choose a representative from each group and get them to arm wrestle in front of the class. Idea is to show "victory".

JOKE: THE PREACHER AND HIS HORSE

There was a preacher who had a horse. He trained his horse to "go" when he said, "Praise the Lord," and to "stop" when he said, "Amen."

One day, the preacher mounted the horse, said, "Praise the Lord" and went for a ride. When he wanted to stop for lunch, he said, "Amen." After lunch, he took off again, saying, "Praise the Lord." The horse started trotting again. Clip, clop, clip, clop.

Then there was a sudden loud noise! The loud noise startled the horse, setting it galloping off in a different direction — straight toward the edge of a cliff. As the cliff got closer and closer, the preacher got so scared that he forgot his key words. So he prayed out loud, "Lord Jesus, please make my horse stop! Amen!"

When the horse heard the "Amen", it stopped immediately, right at the edge of the cliff! The preacher was so relieved and grateful. He breathed deeply, looked up to heaven and shouted loudly, "Praise the Lord!"



STORY: Nehemiah 3: THE HORSE GATE

RECAP

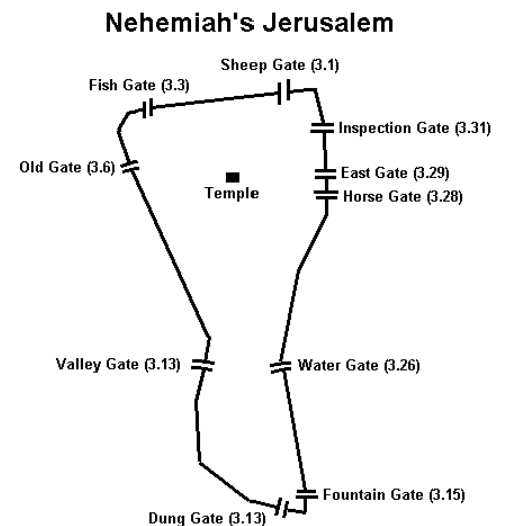
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- the **RUBBISH GATE:**
reminds us that all our good is rubbish compared to knowing Jesus
- the **FOUNTAIN GATE:**
Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit
- the **WATER GATE:**
Jesus washes us clean with His word

Today, we are looking at the 8th gate — the **HORSE GATE**.





LESSON

HORSE GATE

Nehemiah 3:28 *Beyond **the Horse Gate** the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house.*

The Horse Gate was close to the King's stables. The men of Jerusalem would ride their horses out of this gate to war, and after the war, the king's chariots will pass through the gates on its way back into the city in triumphant procession.

THE HORSE GATE REMINDS US THAT:

- **Jesus has won the victory**
When Jesus went into Jerusalem in the Triumphant Entry, he rode a donkey, a humble beast of burden. But when Jesus comes again, He will come in a different way. In Revelations 19:11-12, Jesus is seen on a white horse and all the armies of heaven on white horses were behind him. He wears many crowns on His head to show that He has won the victory.

WHAT VICTORY HAS JESUS WON?

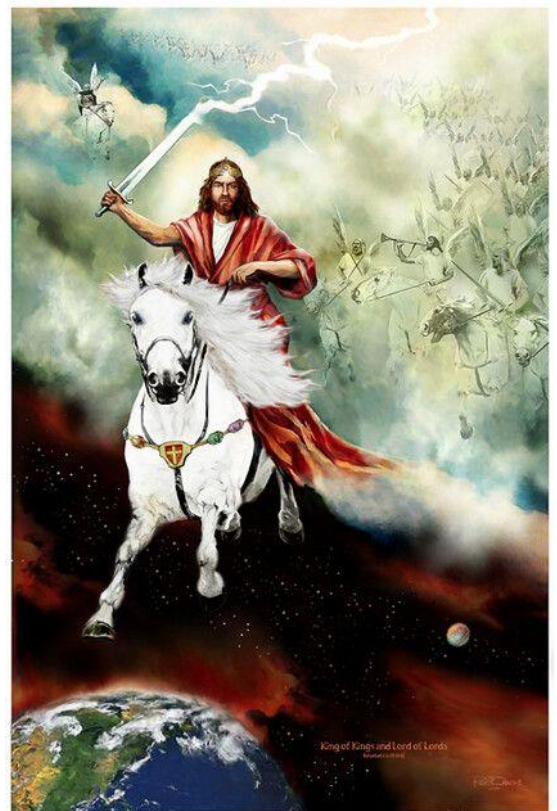
On the cross, Jesus defeated sin:

His perfect life was sacrificed to pay the full punishment of sin. So sin — and its consequences (fear, worry, sadness etc) — no longer has any demand or hold over us anymore.

By His resurrection, Jesus defeated death:

By raising from the dead, Jesus showed that even death could not hold Him anymore. He had defeated death!

Jesus = WINS! SIN = Lost! DEATH = Lost!





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Lesson 4h: THE HORSE GATE

When someone wins a competition, usually they win a prize.

WHAT DID JESUS WIN?

Jesus won our righteousness and holiness

Because Jesus defeated sin, we can be right and good and clean — we can become God's children and experience His blessings

Jesus won our eternal life

Because Jesus defeated death, we can always have His life in us. We don't have to be afraid of death because we know we can be with Jesus forever.

The **HORSE GATE** reminds us that Jesus has won the victory for us!

(for older kids)

Do you notice something? Jesus is the one who won the victory.

Why is it we get all the prizes and blessings?

That's right! Jesus took all the bad we deserved (punishment and death) so that we can have all the good things that He deserved (blessings and favour). He won the victory so that we can enjoy the relationship with God and all the good things He has in store for us.

That's what the Bible means when it says we are "more than conquerors".

Rom 8:37 *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

Story of the boxer (optional): There was a very famous boxer. He trained very hard, day and night. He took part in a very prestigious boxing competition. He beat many opponents, round after round, until finally, he won the final round and got the championship medal! He also received the prize money of a few thousand dollars. He was the champion, the conqueror! Everybody cheered for him. But when he went home, the boxer greeted his wife and handed her his prize money so that she could go and buy herself something with it. The boxer was the conqueror; but his wife was "more than a conqueror" because she received the benefits of the prize money!



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Lesson 4h: THE HORSE GATE

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

POSTER

Get kids to create a poster on the **HORSE GATE**

with the words:

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Rom 8:37)

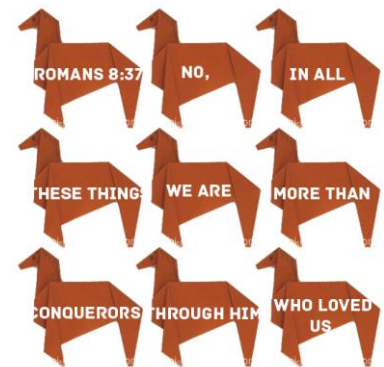
Idea: Origami horse with memory verse (kids can make the horse, write words, mix them up, then rearrange the horses in order etc)

<http://www.origami-instructions.com/origami-horse.html>

SHARE & PRAY

THE HORSE GATE

JESUS WON THE VICTORY!





HOOK

SONG: FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN (for younger kids)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2vAQfAR8DM>

Include actions: Where does the sun rise from? *The East*. The East is usually associated with the right side (assuming top is north). Where is your right side? *Remember to mirror kids, e.g. teacher points to left side.*

From the rising of the sun, to the going down of the same: Both hands make a slow “rainbow-shaped” sweeping motion from right to left, showing the sun rising and going down

The Lord's name, is to be praised: Raise both hands up, then wave both hands.

Praise ye the Lord ... Clap hands

VIDEO: LOOK TO THE EAST (for older kids; optional)

How many of you have read or watched the Lord of the Rings? What is it about? <get answers>

A group called the Fellowship of the Ring was entrusted on a mission to destroy a powerful ring, and the evil one who made it. They faced many challenges.

There was also a man who joined the Fellowship. He was actually the heir to the throne of the kingdom of Gondor; his name is Aragorn. After their last king died, the human population in Middle Earth waned and were nearly forgotten and extinct. At the end, in the last of the trilogy, titled “The return of the King”, Aragorn claimed his right to the throne as the King of Gondor and Arnor, reuniting and preserving the people of his kingdom.

In one of the battles, Aragorn remembered what Gandalf the Wizard told him: “*Look to my coming on the first light of the fifth day, at dawn look to **the east**.*” Emboldened, Aragorn charged out to face the enemy, despite being outnumbered and overpowered. But at the break of day, Gandalf appeared and brought reinforcements to help them win the battle.



Gandalf's “look to the East” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXQuOKzw5IA>

longer version (with battle scenes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fbhVPnhX-4>



STORY: Nehemiah 3: THE EAST GATE

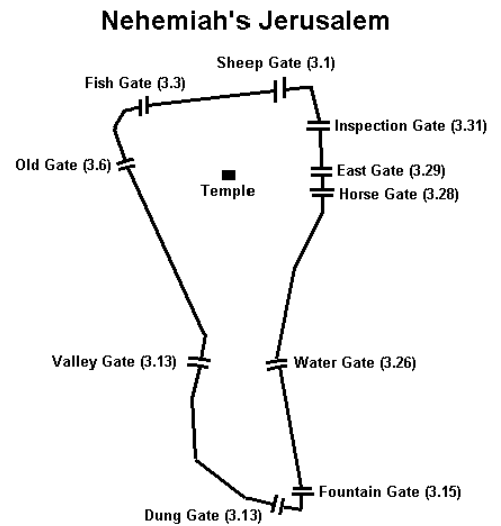
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There were 10 gates mentioned in the rebuilding of the walls. We looked at what these gates were used for and how they remind us of Jesus and His finished work on the Cross! So far, we covered:

- the **SHEEP GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
- the **FISH GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus has blessed us with so much, that we can be Fishers of Men and share His blessings with others.
- the **OLD GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus makes us New Creations
- the **VALLEY GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus is always with us, even in the valleys
- the **RUBBISH GATE:**
reminds us that all our good is rubbish compared to knowing Jesus
- the **FOUNTAIN GATE:**
Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit
- the **WATER GATE:**
Jesus washes us clean with His word
- the **HORSE GATE:**
Jesus has won the victory

Today, we are looking at the 9th gate — the **EAST GATE**.





LESSON

EAST GATE

Nehemiah 3:29 *Next to him, Shemaiah son of Shekaniah, the guard at **the East Gate**, made repairs.*

The East Gate is located opposite of the Mount of Olives.

When Jesus was on earth, the week before He was going to die on the cross, He entered Jerusalem through the East Gate, riding on a donkey.

After Jesus died on the cross, He was buried and then rose again. He appeared to His disciples and many others and told them to tell others about Him. While He was talking to them, He started to go up into the sky! The people watched Him go up into the clouds and disappear!

While they were still staring into the sky, an angel appeared and said, *“Why are you looking up into the sky? This same Jesus will come back in the same way you have seen him go up into heaven.”* (Acts 1:11)

THE EAST GATE REMINDS US THAT:

- **Jesus is coming again**

East = the direction from which the SUN rises

East = the direction from which the SON of Man (Jesus) will come again

Matt 24:27 *For as lightning that comes from the **east** is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*

How many of you go to kindergarten? Who sends you to school? Mummy? Daddy?

When your parents drop you off at school, will they also pick you back after school?

Yes! They won't leave you behind. They will say, “See you later, alligator!” and they'll promise to come back for you. And when school is over, mummy and daddy are there, just as they promised!

After Jesus died and rose again, He went back to heaven. But do you know that He promised to come back for us? And He will. Every time we see the sun rise in the **east**, we remember Jesus' promise and know that He will come again soon!



<for older kids>

According to prophecy, when Jesus returns again, His feet will touch first the Mount of Olives, causing a great earthquake, and splitting the Mount of Olives in two. Then He will enter Jerusalem through **the EAST GATE** (Zech 14:4).

Many years later, in 1530AD, the Arabs (Ottoman Turks) sealed up **the EAST GATE**. They believed that the Jews expected their Messiah to come through this gate, so they thought by sealing it up, it would prevent His return. They even planted a cemetery in front of it, thinking that a Jewish Messiah will not set foot into a cemetery because it was not "holy".

But the Arabs didn't know that a sealed gate will not prevent the return of the King (after all, a sealed tomb did not prevent Jesus from rising from the dead). And by sealing the gate, they are actually fulfilling a prophecy by Ezekiel (Ezekiel 44:1-3), which said that **the EAST GATE** will be shut!



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

When Jesus comes back, He will bring us back to be with the Father forever!

Have you ever had someone special come to your house for a visit like a grandparent or cousins, or good friends? Sometimes we make plans for people to come and visit. What kinds of things do you have to do to get ready for company? (Clean your room, get some snacks, help clean the house, etc.) I get really excited when someone is going to come and visit. As their visit gets closer, I start counting the days until they come.

Do you know that Jesus is busy preparing His home for our arrival? Jesus is in heaven now. Before He died, Jesus told His disciples, *"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."* (John 14:1-3)

Jesus is preparing His place for us, and He is coming back to bring us with Him!



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Lesson 4i: THE EAST GATE

HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN JESUS HAS COME BACK AGAIN?

We will all see it! (Matt 24:27; Rev 1:7 “... every eye will see Him”)

When Jesus first came as a little baby, not many people knew about it. There wasn't a big fanfare, no newspapers or radio or Internet to announce His arrival. Only a bright star in the sky, and shepherds and wisemen who came to greet Him.

But when He comes again, it'll be as bright and noticeable as the sun, or a lightning flashing through the sky. We don't need to read about it on TikTok or Instagram. We will all see it together!

WHEN WILL JESUS COME AGAIN?

Unlike Gandalf, Jesus did not give a specific time for His return. So we don't know exactly when He will come; it isn't marked on the calendar.

But Jesus did promise to come again. We can look forward to it just as people two thousand years ago looked forward to the coming Messiah.

Jesus' coming again = Satan's time is up! Satan will be completely destroyed!

Satan is scared that his time is up, so he tries to do as much damage as he can.

The signs of the times — wars, famines, diseases etc — tell us that the time is near. So when we read of all these disasters, we shouldn't be fearful. We just declare that Jesus is coming again soon!

Every day when we see the SON rising from **the east**, we remember that the SON of Man — Jesus — is coming again soon as the King of kings.

The **EAST GATE** reminds us that Jesus is coming again!



ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

Matt 24:27 *For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*

Or

John 14:3 *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."*

POSTER

Get kids to create a poster on the **EAST GATE** with the memory verse.

SHARE & PRAY

THE EAST GATE

JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!



"AND IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU,
I WILL COME BACK
AND TAKE YOU TO BE WITH ME
THAT YOU ALSO MAY BE WHERE I AM."
JOHN 14:3



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Lesson 4j: THE GATHERING GATE

HOOK

SONG: THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER (for younger kids)

tune: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpzLA-w1I8s>

The more we get together, together, together

<hold hands in circle and swing>

The more we get together, the happier we'll be

For Jesus is my friend

<point at oneself>

And Jesus is your friend

<point at another person>

The more we get together, the happier we'll be



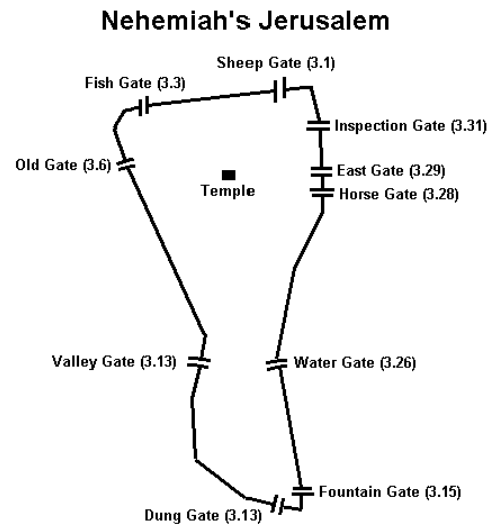
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- the **FOUNTAIN GATE:**
Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit
- the **WATER GATE:**
Jesus washes us clean with His word
- the **HORSE GATE:**
Jesus has won the victory
- the **EAST GATE:**
Jesus is coming again soon



Today, we are looking at the 10th gate — the **GATHERING GATE**.



LESSON

GATHERING GATE (aka Miphkad Gate, Inspection Gate)

Nehemiah 3:31 *Malchijah, a goldsmith, rebuilt the next section, as far as the house used by the temple workers and merchants. This area was across from **Gathering Gate**, near the room on top of the wall at the northeast corner.*

The **GATHERING GATE** led into the Temple courtyard, where people come together to worship God

The **GATHERING GATE** is also known as the Miphkad Gate, or Inspection Gate.

Miphkad means a place of gathering, appointment, a designated spot, a numbering.

The word “*Miphkad*” is used in 3 places in the Bible: (older kids)

- King David counting his fighting men (census) (2 Sam 24:9, 1 Chron 21:5)
- Appointment of people into positions by King Hezekiah (2 Chron 31:13)
- A designated area of the temple for the burning of the sin offering (Eze 43:21)

THE GATHERING GATE REMINDS US THAT:

- **Jesus GATHERS us together**

God calls us to be a body — not a lone ranger Christian. Because of Jesus, we are one big family — different shapes and sizes, yet all One in Jesus.

Romans 12:5 *In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body.*

- **Jesus loves to spend time with us**

Story of Jesus and the Children: Let me tell you a story about some children who lived a long time ago. It was a normal day for the children in the village. They would be at home spending time with their family or playing together with their friends.

That day, their mother came rushing into the house. “Hurry, children, hurry! Jesus is here!”



The children jumped to their feet when they heard this. They had heard people talking about Jesus. He sounded like a very special and important person. The children rushed out the door. They saw many other children with their mothers rushing in the same direction. As they turned the corner, they saw Jesus! Many people were around Him. The children started to make their way up to Jesus.

Then some men around Jesus started to turn people away. "Go away, Jesus is too busy to see the children. Go away!"

The children were disappointed and a little afraid. They started to turn back.

Suddenly, Jesus looked at those men and said, "*Let the little children come to me and DO NOT stop them!*" (Matt 19:14)

Then as if a door had been opened, all the children made their way to Jesus. He wrapped His arms around them and prayed for them. It was a very exciting day for the children. They were able to see how much Jesus loved them. They got to see that Jesus wanted to spend time with them.

Jesus loves you boys and girls too. He loves you so much that He died and came back to life so that you could spend forever with Him. He really wants to be able to spend time with us. And He also loves it when we gather together to sing praise to Him and learn more about Him through the Bible, just like today.

(source: <http://www.missionarlington.org/d/LOC08-33-JesusLovesChildren.pdf>)

- **Jesus loves it when we GATHER with each other**

Jesus said, "*For where two or three **gather** in my name, there am I with them.*" (Matt 18:20)

While Jesus is always with us and His Spirit lives in each of us, when we **GATHER** together, we can show each other the Jesus in us — we can encourage each other; when one falls down, the other can pull him up; when one is happy, they others can celebrate with him; when one is sad, the others can comfort him.

It's like a family gathering together at the dinner table (e.g. Daddy/Mummy calling everyone to come to eat), instead of each person eating by themselves in their room. That's why we can come together as a big family every Sunday to celebrate Jesus ... not just with mummy and daddy, but also with other aunties, uncles, grandparents and friends. That's why we should come together as often as we can to hear about Jesus and what He has done for us.



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Lesson 4j: THE GATHERING GATE

And one day, when Jesus comes again, He will gather ALL of us together in front of His throne.
What a wonderful family gathering that will be!

Rev 7:9 *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.*

We are one family ... all because of Jesus

The **GATHERING (Miphkad) GATE** reminds us that Jesus gathers us together.



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Lesson 4j: THE GATHERING GATE

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

Matt 18:20 *For where two or three **gather** in my name, there am I with them.*

POSTER

Get kids to create a poster on the **EAST GATE** with the memory verse.

SONG:

Jesus loves the little children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFtLkqs3T1k>

As we gather

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_foszR1GiQ

SHARE & PRAY

THE GATHERING GATE

JESUS GATHERS US TOGETHER



MATT 18:20
FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE
COME TOGETHER IN MY NAME,
THERE AM I WITH THEM.



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REVIEW: GOSPEL IN THE GATES

NOTE

ACTIVITY:

This is a review lesson. So it's supposed to be fun and very activity based. Keep it simple and stress-free
😊 Just 1-2 activities should be sufficient. Modify as you deem fit.

RECAP:

You can decide how you want to do the review of the 10 gates.
Basically, the kids should be able to know: Name of Gate & how it reminds us of what Jesus has done for us. For the older kids, you may want to up the ante by throwing in a memory verse or two.

CONCLUSION:

Please end with the Conclusion (important) and an invitation for those who have not received Christ to accept Him as their Lord and Saviour.



ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS: Nehemiah 3

- **Find the Gates:** Hide cards with pictures representing each gate around the room. Have the kids hunt for the pictures. Then use the pictures to go through each gate and how they point to Jesus.
- **Matching Game:** Prepare 2 identical sets of 10 picture cards (each card has a picture representing each gate) and get the kids to match. Can be done in a relay style also, e.g. both sets of cards are mixed up in front (facing upwards); kids line up in 2 lines and take turns to run forward to find a matching pair.
- **Memory Game:** Have 10 large cards with pictures to represent each of the gates and another 10 large cards with text on how they point to Jesus. (large cards: so the whole class can see what's on the cards). Arrange cards face down in a 4x5 grid (either on the floor or stuck on a board). Divide kids into 2 teams. Teams take turns to send a representative forward to open 2 cards and try to find a matching pair (e.g. Sheep Gate picture card with "Jesus is the Lamb of God" text card). If a match is made, the cards are removed, and the team gets a point. If unsuccessful, the cards have to be returned faced down in original position for the next person to try. Team that gets the most number of matches wins.
- **Scrambled Memory Verse:** Can be used for the memory verse of the week too (John 10:9-10) Prepare 2 sets of scrambled memory verses, divide kids into 2 groups and get them to unscramble the verse.
E.g. Horse gate: cut-out horse shapes, write a word of the verse on each of the horses, get kids to unscramble. Or for Fish gate: write each word of the verse on a paper fish with a paper clip attached; kids have to try to fish out the correct word to complete the verse.
- **Enter the Gate:** Have the kids stand in a circle and hold up the hands of those standing next to them to form "gates". Choose 1 kid to stand outside the circle — he/she has to try to enter the circle through the gates, which can close anytime (by putting their hands down).
- **Create a wall:** Divide kids into 10 small groups and assign each group a gate. Have them create a cardboard box (lots of ideas on the Net or you can just get ready-made ones) and decorate the box based on their assigned gate. Then assemble the boxes in a circle on the floor to resemble the walls of Jerusalem. Have the kids stand outside the wall and move from gate to gate as you do the review, beginning with the Sheep gate. At the end, talk about how Jesus is the gate through which we get abundant life (John 10:9-10). And invite the kids to step into the middle of the box circle if they want to accept Jesus as their Gate of Life — their Lord and Saviour. Lead them in prayer inside the circle.



RECAP: Nehemiah 3

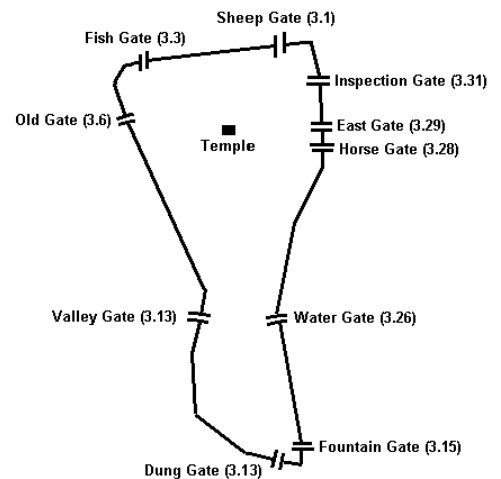
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Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)
- the **FISH GATE:**
Jesus has blessed us with so much, that we can be Fishers of Men and share His blessings with others.
"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." (Matthew 4:19)
- the **OLD GATE:**
reminds us that Jesus makes us New Creations
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Cor 5:17)
- the **VALLEY GATE:**
Jesus is always with us, even in the valleys.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. (Psalm 23:4)
- the **RUBBISH GATE:**
All our good is rubbish compared to knowing Jesus.
For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him. (Phil 3:8)
- the **FOUNTAIN GATE:**
Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit.
The water Jesus gives me will become a fountain of water that gives me everlasting life. (John 4:14)

Nehemiah's Jerusalem





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REVIEW: GOSPEL IN THE GATES

- the **WATER GATE:**
Jesus washes us clean with His word.
Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word. (Eph 5:25-27)
- the **HORSE GATE:**
Jesus has won the victory
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Rom 8:37)
- the **EAST GATE:**
Jesus is coming again soon.
"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:3)
- the **GATHERING GATE:**
Jesus gathers us together.
For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. (Matt 18:20)



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REVIEW: GOSPEL IN THE GATES

CONCLUSION

The Bible is a great big love story about how God loved us so much, He came down to die in our place so we can have new life in Him.

The Bible points us to Jesus and His finished work on the Cross.

Through studying the 10 gates of Jerusalem, we can see Jesus and what He has done for us.

Jesus Himself said that **He is the GATE OF LIFE!**

John 10:9-10 *I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

Just like the sheep go through the gate to safety in the sheep pen, and go through the gate for food and nourishment in the pasture, when we come to Jesus, we have His protection and His provision for us!

Invite kids to accept Jesus as their gate of life!



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REVIEW: GOSPEL IN THE GATES

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

John 10:9 *I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.*

SHARE & PRAY



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Lesson 5: FACING OPPOSITION

RECAP

We've been following the adventures of Nehemiah as he and the people of Israel work together to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem

Who is Nehemiah?

A Jew who was serving as cupbearer in the Persian king's court.

What is a cupbearer?

A high-ranking officer whose duty is to serve drinks to the king (guarding it against poison).

Why did Nehemiah go to Jerusalem?

To lead the people to rebuild the broken walls and the burnt gates — a city without walls is in disgrace and without protection from enemies.

When Nehemiah first went to examine the walls, what did he see?

Ruins. A mess.

What did Nehemiah say to the people to encourage them?

The God of heaven will give us success.

The people started rebuilding and repairing the gates. Who can name me some of the gates?

Sheep, Fish, Old, Valley, Rubbish, Fountain, Water, Horse, East, Gathering

What do all the gates remind us about Jesus?

Jesus is the gate of life! (John 10:9-10)



STORY: FACING OPPOSITION (Nehemiah 4, 6)

In anything we do, we would face difficulties or opposition — people who go against what we are doing. Obviously Nehemiah and the people of Jerusalem faced their share of challenges.

OPPOSITION

Their enemies — Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites — did not want Jerusalem's walls to be built, so they were furious and indignant when the Jews started the rebuilding.

They insulted and ridiculed them.

"What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?" (Neh 4:2)

"What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!" (Neh 4:3)

They plotted to fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.

They threatened to kill them.

"Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work." (Neh 4:11)

They intimidated them.

The Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us." (Neh 4:12)

They tried to trick Nehemiah.

Later on, Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem the Arab tried to get Nehemiah to meet them at one of the villages so they could harm him. (Neh 6)

They spread lies about the Jews.

They accused the Jews of plotting a revolt and making Nehemiah king. (Neh 6:5-7)



NEHEMIAH'S RESPONSE

Naturally, the Jews would be afraid and worn out, even though they worked with all their heart.

But **Nehemiah reassured them.**

"Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." (Neh 4:14)

"Our God will fight for us!" (Neh 4:20)

He prayed.

They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed." But I prayed, "Now strengthen my hands." (Neh 6:9)

He set men to guard the wall day and night — half built the wall, while the other half wore armour, held spears, shields and bows. They stayed within the city at night to stand guard. They carried their weapon everywhere they went, even when going for water. When they hear the sound of the trumpet, the men were to gather together and fight.

THE RESULT

The enemies retreated!

*And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that **God had brought their plot to nothing**, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work. (Neh 4:15)*



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Lesson 5: FACING OPPOSITION

LESSON

Share an example of a challenge/opposition you faced. Get kids to share what sort of challenges they face.

HOW, THEN, DO WE FACE OPPOSITION?

REMEMBER THE LORD

In the face of opposition, Nehemiah kept pointing the people to the Lord, who is great and awesome. When we focus on the opposition, the problem gets bigger in our eyes. But when we focus on God, He gets bigger, so we do not have to be afraid.

We can face opposition and challenges by knowing who we are in Christ and focusing on what He has done for us!

Romans 8:31 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

STAND GUARD

Just like Nehemiah's enemies, the devil will find all sorts of ways to trick and trap us.

Like the Jews guarding the city, we can stand against the devil by putting on the whole armour of God *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.* (Eph 6:10-13)

And we will also see our enemies retreat and flee from us in Jesus' name!



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Lesson 5: FACING OPPOSITION

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

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SHARE & PRAY



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What did the people face when rebuilding the wall? *Opposition (insults, threats, lies etc)*

How did they overcome it? *They remembered the Lord and stood guard.*



STORY: FORGIVING DEBTS (Nehemiah 5)

While the people of Jerusalem were able to fend off their enemies, they also faced problems in their own community.

- Last week: external enemies — the people were united against them
- This week: internal problems — divided the people

PROBLEMS FACED BY THE ISRAELITES ...

Famine: (v. 2-3)

The Israelites had big families, but not enough food.

They had to take loans on their fields, vineyards and homes to get grain during the famine.

High taxes: (v.4)

The Israelites had to pay taxes on their fields and vineyards to the king (of Persia). Because times were difficult, they had to borrow money to pay the tax.

High interest: (v.5, 7)

The rich Jews (nobles and officials) were taking advantage of the situation by lending money to their countrymen and charging them interest. so the Israelites were not able to pay back their debt. As a result, they had to sell their sons and daughters into slavery.

NEHEMIAH'S RESPONSE

When Nehemiah heard about this, he was very angry — the leaders were exploiting the people, instead of helping; those who had money were pressing down those who didn't and making them poorer.

He called a large meeting and scolded the nobles and officials: "You are charging your own people interest! What you are doing is not right."

The rich were:

- Selling their fellow Jews (they were one big family) into slavery to Gentiles — Nehemiah had previously bought back those sold as slaves to foreigners when Judah was conquered
- Taking away the fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses from those who already don't have food or money
- Charging interest — 1%/month (12% per year) of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil that they lend to the poor



NEHEMIAH'S OWN EXAMPLE

Nehemiah and his brothers have been lending money and grain to the people, WITHOUT charging any interest.

When he was governor of Jerusalem for 12 years, he:

- didn't eat the food allotted to him as governor
- did not take any land for himself or extra money from the people (unlike previous governors who took 50 shekels of silver from them, on top of food and wine)
- did not lord over the people

Why? *"Out of reverence for God."*

Nehemiah knew God's heart — to help and encourage, not to push down and step on. Instead, he devoted himself to the work on the wall — do what God called him to do.

THE NOBLES/OFFICIALS' RESPONSE

Nehemiah instructed the nobles/officials to return the fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses to the poor.

They took an oath and replied: *"We will give it back. And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say."*



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Lesson 6: FORGIVING DEBTS

LESSON

JESUS PAID OUR DEBT FOR US

Just like the poor Israelites, all of us owed a debt we could not pay —no matter what we did or how good we tried to be.

Our debt was called “SIN”. We were sold as slaves to sin.

By dying on the cross, Jesus paid this debt He did not owe and bought us back for himself.

Colossians 2:13-14 *When you were dead in your sins ... God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the record of debt, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.*

WE CAN LOVE AND CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER

When we know and understand what Jesus has done for us, we can show His love and care to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We can help and lift up those in need, and not push them down or step on them.



ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

Colossians 2:14 *He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the record of debt, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.*

GAME: MONEY MATTERS (copyright: Daniel Dusanj)

Objective: To show how the Jews Struggled

Split into 2 or more teams, with at least 3 people each

Assign one moneylender (Rich class).

Teams start with a fixed amount of money

Teacher will randomly spin the wheel to dictate various events that occur:

- Famine
- Sickness
- Buying food and clothes



If a team's money runs low, they are forced to borrow money from the debt collector. They can either take a loan with interest (need to pay back after a certain amount of time), with a penalty (e.g. squats, sit-ups etc), or by selling off a member of their team to slavery.

The last surviving team wins.

SHARE & PRAY



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Lesson 7: MISSION COMPLETED?

RECAP

We've been following the adventures of Nehemiah as he and the people of Israel work together to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem

As we've learnt, the people of Israel faced a lot of opposition when they were rebuilding the wall.

VIDEO

BrunstadTV Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlXHhUs6Zgl>



LESSON: MISSION COMPLETED?

Despite all the challenges and opposition, the walls of Jerusalem were finished in a record 52 days!
(Neh 6:16)

(The walls were 4,000 metres long, averaging 12 metres high, with an average thickness of 2.5 metres. Definitely not a small job.)

When all the enemies and surrounding nations heard that the Jews managed to finish their big wall so fast, they were all afraid because they knew that it could only have been done with the help of a powerful God. The same God who brought down the walls of Jericho with seven days of marching helped the Jews build their walls in under 2 months!

NEHEMIAH'S REFORMS

Now that the walls were up, what was there left to do? Plenty.

Security: Nehemiah set up doors on the walls and appointed gatekeepers

History: The Jews in Jerusalem were returnees from exile. They had lost their homes and country when they were taken by the Babylonians. So Nehemiah wanted to record their names down by family, to give them a sense of belonging and history.

Spiritual: Nehemiah also appointed singers, and Levites to lead the people into worship. Ezra the scribe also read the Law of Moses at the Water Gate to the people; in response, the people confessed their sins and worshipped God – remembering all that He had done for them. They made a covenant to follow God's Laws.

The wall was then dedicated to God with great rejoicing and celebration.

NEHEMIAH'S DISMAY

After completing his mission of rebuilding the wall, Nehemiah went back to serve King Artaxerxes.

After some time, he came back and discovered a whole lot of other issues ... the Jews had broken God's laws again, e.g. desecrating the temple, disobeying Sabbath, marrying non-Jews etc. Nehemiah's enemy was even given a room to stay in the temple.

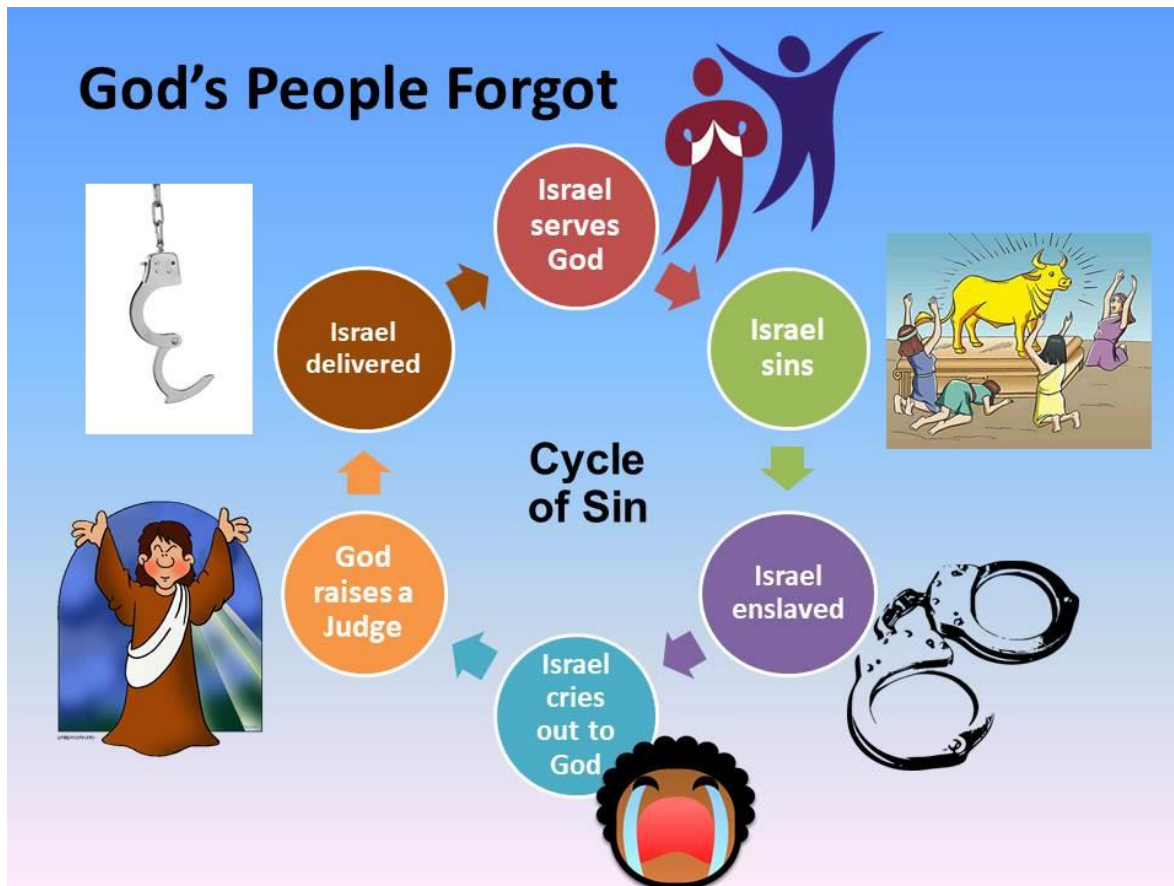
Nehemiah was disappointed and had to make everything right again. He scolded and nagged and reminded the people of God's Laws.



CYCLE OF SIN

But as we've learned, on our own, we cannot keep God's Laws fully. We will always go through the cycle of sin.

Do you remember how Israel went through the cycle of sin? (Book of Judges)



It was the cycle of sin that caused the Israelites to be sent into exile, their city to be burnt and their walls to be destroyed.

And, despite Nehemiah's best efforts, the cycle of sin continued even after they returned from exile and their walls were rebuilt.

Only Jesus can break this cycle. That's why Jesus had to come (some 450 years after Nehemiah) to truly restore God's people and repair the brokenness in their hearts and lives.

Thank you Jesus, that just as Nehemiah rebuilt the broken walls and turned people to God, You rebuilt us as Your people and reconciled us back to God with Your perfect, finished work on the Cross.



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Lesson 7: MISSION COMPLETED?

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

RELATED CRAFT/GAME

SHARE & PRAY