

Nehemiah; Nehemiah 1:1-11

NEHEMIAH, GOD'S PRAYING MAN

Key Thought: God grants you the courage to face challenges ahead.

Show me how you look when you feel very sad. Wait for everyone to make a sad face. Then giggle until everyone is laughing with you.

God turned Nehemiah's sadness into gladness. Nehemiah was in a country far away from Israel. He was a captive serving the king. One day he heard sad news about his homeland. The people left in Israel were having a bad time. The wall around Jerusalem was broken down. It lay in ruins. The city gates were burned. It was a shame for God's people.

Nehemiah cried when he heard about it. He felt so sad. He prayed for God's help to restore the city to a glorious place again.

Read Nehemiah 1:11 as a prayer. Nehemiah asked God to help with his need.

The next time Nehemiah served the king, his face showed sadness. The king noticed.

"Why is your face sad? You are not sick. This must be sorrow of heart."

Nehemiah was very afraid. He was not supposed to show sadness before the king. He told the king why he was sad.

"The city of my homeland is in ruins. The gates are burned."

"What is your request?" the king asked. Nehemiah breathed a prayer to God. He needed to say the right thing.

"If you are willing for me to go, please send me there that I may build it."

The king agreed. He sent letters for protection with Nehemiah. He gave him lumber from the king's forest to help rebuild the city. Nehemiah was very glad. He knew the king gave Nehemiah what he needed because of the good hand of God upon him.

God gave Nehemiah courage to face the problem he had. God made the king willing to let Nehemiah go back to his homeland. God will help us do what we need to do. God answers when we pray.

GAME TIME

TWO-BY-TWO RACE

SUPPLIES:

Mark two lines about 30' apart

DIRECTIONS:

Form pairs. If there is an uneven number of students, have an adult play. Each pair of students joins hands and stand facing forward behind the starting line. At signal, all pairs run to another line about thirty feet across the playing field and back to the starting line. Students must hold hands while running. Students change partners. Repeat the race. Continue play until each student has held hands and run the course with each of the other students.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Staying connected was one of the rules for this game. Paul and Barnabas worked for God as partners. They helped each other. They were willing to go wherever the Holy Spirit led.