

SERVANTS GUIDE

Nehemiah Lesson 3

Servants **MUST** prep the lesson & complete the below checklist
& Sincerely ask God to lead the lesson 😊

Servants understanding

- Pray
- Read the lesson Summary & Goal of the lesson
- Read full chapter
- Read the interpretation to have good understanding first

Kids Experience

- Read the kids reading flow.
- Prepare the hard words, pauses to probe GEMS (SPACE PETS)
- Time yourself to practice time keeping.
- Go through the video and have the link ready.

S - Sin to confess
P - Promise to claim
A - Attitude to change
C - Command to keep
E - Example to follow
P - Prayer to pray
E - Error to avoid
T - Truth to believe
S - Something to thank for
Linked GEM
Hymn GEM

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1. SERVANT'S UNDERSTANDING

Brief

This day in the intro we will cover:

- Last week's verse & summary (in pictures).

Readings:

- The actual reading will cover several verses in Nehemiah 5:3-4,7,9,11-12 and Nehemiah 6: 2-4,9-12,15,16

Key Points/Reflections:

- Chapter 5 Nehemiah deals with oppression (inside challenges) and unites the people
- Chapter 6 Nehemiah deals with continuous deceiving attempts from the enemies and God protects him. Finally, the wall is complete, and the other nations feared them as they saw and realized how GOD helped them.

Full reading and interpretations

Servant to read [Nehemiah 5 \(NKJV\)](#) and [Nehemiah 6 \(NKJV\)](#)

Chapter interpretations:

[Catena – Nehemiah 5](#) and [Catena – Nehemiah 6](#)

Fr Tadros Yacoub

[Fr. Tadros Yacoub - Book of Nehemiah in English](#)

[Fr. Tadros Yacoub – Nehemiah 5 in Arabic](#) and [Fr. Tadros Yacoub – Nehemiah 6 in Arabic](#)



⚙ Settings

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Reference for meanings and simpler equivalent words:

[Nehemiah 5 with simplified English \(NIRV\)](#)

[Nehemiah 6 with simplified English \(NIRV\)](#)

Select Church Tradition

All Commentaries

Includes all of the below

Western Theology

All fathers honored in Western Church after AD 1054 (e.g. Thomas Aquinas, Cornelius a Lapide, George Leo Haydock)

Byzantine Theology

All fathers venerated in Byzantine Church after AD 1054 (e.g. Gregory Palamas, Theophylact of Ochrid)

Early Fathers

All fathers venerated in all churches in communion with the Church of Alexandria (e.g. Athanasius of Alexandria, John Chrysostom, Augustine of Hippo)

2. KIDS / CLASS EXPERIENCE Prep.

Total 45 Minutes Class Experience – Don't exceed the time!

TOTAL 10 MINS

PRAY / INTRODUCTION

Start in Prayer

> We stand and pray.

> Pray in relevance to reading the bible: Ask God to talk to us through the bible and help us focus and find lessons learned.

Last week's verse

Last week's Recap: Recap last week in pictures

LAST WEEK'S RECAP



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This week's VIDEO TOTAL 5 MINS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5Y0P6Mpbqo&t=657s>

Watch from beginning minutes **16:06 to 20:45**

Time check: 35 mins left

TOTAL 20 MINS

BIBLE READING & REFLECTION

Bridge:

Last time we saw how Nehemiah dealt with outside challenges (when he got the people to take watches and have rotations of building and protecting).

This time there were challenges but from the inside. As time passed and the poor started to need more money, so the nobles and wealthier people started to lend them money. However, if they couldn't repay it, then the wealthy would take the poor's properties or enslave them, which was not fair.

The poor went to Nehemiah to help them with this situation, let us see how Nehemiah will respond.

Nehemiah 5

³ There were also *some* who said, "We have mortgaged our lands and vineyards and houses, that we might buy grain because of the famine."

⁴ There were also those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax *on* our lands and vineyards.

⁷ After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers, and said to them, "Each of you is exacting usury from his brother." So, I called a great assembly against them.

⁹ Then I said, "What you are doing *is* not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?"

Hard words:

mortgaged --> borrowed money

Rebuked --> corrected them firmly

Exacting usury --> charging for unfair interest (making profit from their brothers' needs)

Reproach of the nations, our enemies --> keep our enemies from saying bad things about us

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GEM: Error to avoid + sin to confess .

(Do we sometimes take advantage of others? if so “sometimes” – this is a

sin to confess and error to avoid from now on)

¹¹ Restore now to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also a hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil, that you have charged them.”

¹² So they said, “We will restore *it*, and will require nothing from them; we will do as you say.”

GEM: Example to follow + attitude to change

(When you repent and try to fix your mistake or sin if you can like they did

here)

Restore --> return

NOTE TO SERVANTS – ASK THE KIDS IF ANYONE CAN SUMMERIZE

RECAP:

Nehemiah rebuked the nobles and wealthy and urged them to repent and to return the money and property they took by taking advantage of the needy.

They did not resist, they actually listened! repented and returned what they took! – Well, you can fix a mistake you did, when it is possible – don’t hesitate to do it 😊

Intriguing Questions:

Do we take advantage of other sometimes? ... What can you do about it now?

Nehemiah 6

² Sanballat and Geshem sent me a message. They said, “Come. Let’s talk with one another. Let’s meet in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.” But they were planning to harm me.

³ So I sent messengers to them with my answer. I replied, “I’m working on a huge project. So, I can’t get away. Why should the work stop while I

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leave it? Why should I go down and talk with you?"

⁴ They sent me the same message four times. And I gave them the same answer each time.

⁹ All of them were trying to frighten us. They thought, "Their hands will get too weak to do the work. So, it won't be completed."

But I prayed to God. I said, "Make my hands stronger."

→ GEM: Example to follow, prayer to pray, Truth to believe

¹⁰ One day I went to Shemaiah's house. He was the son of Delaiah. Delaiah was the son of Mehetabel. Shemaiah had shut himself up in his home. He said, "Let's go to God's house. Let's meet inside the temple and close the doors. Some men are coming at night to kill you."

¹¹ But I said, "Should a man like me run away? Should someone like me go into the temple just to save his life? No! I won't go!" ¹² I realized that God hadn't sent Shemaiah. Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. That's why he had prophesied lies about me.

→ GEM: Error to avoid (align with Evil like Shemaiah) - Truth to believe (God will protect us)

RECAP:

Sanballat and Geshem (the enemies) are still trying to trick Nehemiah and discourage him at any cost, over and over again (like Satan does with us) and they even hired a traitor who tried to set Nehemiah up, but God protected him and guided him to not listen to him.

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Intriguing Questions:

Do you sometimes feel that bad ideas keep coming back? This is the same as Sanballat and Geshem – what did you learn from Nehemiah about how to face that?

¹⁵ So the city wall was completed on the 25th day of the month of Elul. It was finished in 52 days.

¹⁶ All our enemies heard about it. All the nations around us became afraid. They weren't sure of themselves anymore. They realized that our God had helped us finish the work.

GEMs: Example to follow (Don't give up – Teamwork is great – we should have one spirit and support each other) - Truth to believe (God keeps his promises)

RECAP:

Finally, the wall is complete! Yaaay! The whole thing in 52 days despite of all the challenges 😊

Time check: 15 mins left

WRAP UP & VERSE OF THE DAY

TOTAL 5 MINS

NOW, facilitate that “The Kids” find out lessons learned.

Remind them with the principle “we ALWAYS find something to learn from the Bible when we read it.”

Tips for Lessons learned facilitation:

Use SPACE PETS Key to help the kids find lessons learned (tool to find the Gems!)

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What did you learn from today's reading?

- God's Children should have empathy (have one heart), especially for those under burdens or facing problems.
- Having empathy leads to supporting each other through praying and whatever action we can do or offer

What can you do to apply what you read in your personal life?

- Help each other and encourage each other.
- Beware of Satan's tricks and examine thoughts before accepting them.

Verse of the Day:

"Remember me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people". (Nehemiah 5:19)

TIME CHECK: 10 mins left

TOTAL 5 MINS

Prayer & Dismissal

With younger kids we can ask them to repeat after us. With older kids, we can motivate and guide them to say a simple single sentence.

TIME CHECK: 5 mins left

Please dismiss kids on time