7

Building Plans

Key References: Nehemiah 2; 3; *Prophets and Kings,* chap. 53, pp. 635-645; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 6, pp. 111-114; Our Beliefs, nos. 14, 17, 11















powertext

"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 60.

powerpoint

We serve God best when we work together with a careful plan.

Think about a fire drill. Do you think that all the details and practices were a waste of time? Anyone who has escaped alive from a fire probably doesn't feel that way about having a well-rehearsed plan to avoid disaster. Let's continue to visualize Nehemiah's journal.

4th day, Av, Year 20

I'm glad I took my midnight ride before I told the city leaders about my plan to rebuild the wall. After I spoke to them, they became convinced that this was God's will. The cooperation of the priests has really helped move this project forward. They and the nobles have beautifully organized themselves. The nobles have organized the people into companies. Each company is responsible for rebuilding a section of the wall or one of the gates.

Most of the companies are made up of family, city/district, or professional groups. One man who has no sons brought his daughters to help build. The merchants, goldsmiths, and Temple servants are the most active of the professionals.

Some people, especially the priests, have taken responsibility for rebuilding near their homes and in their districts. All the groups work side by side, and where one group ends its work, another one starts. There is not a section on the wall where someone isn't working.

Everyone is cooperating except the Tekoite nobles. Some Tekoites do help, but most of them won't lift a finger. I don't understand their attitude. The work would go so much faster with their help. We need every hand we can get, and with the way everyone else is working, we'll get the work done. Eliashib, the high priest, has been a tireless worker. He even consecrated the Sheep Gate that he has taken

7

Sunday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 1:10 and this week's story, "Building Plans."

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, 1 Corinthians 1:10.

PRAY Ask God to teach you ways to cooperate with others in serving Him.

Monday

READ Read Nehemiah 3.

REFLECT What can we learn about the many different people who helped build the Jerusalem wall? How could God use your talents and gifts in His service?

LIST List ways in which families in your church help.

PRAY Ask God to show you the part He wants you to play in building up your church.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–31.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, draw or list the parts of the body mentioned in the verses. Beside each, write the various responsibilities in your church that remind you of how the church functions like a body and its parts.

PRAY Thank God for the special place of service He has for you. Ask Him to reveal it to you.

charge of rebuilding. His early support put fire under others to get them moving. Some of the nobles aren't very skilled at the work, but their support makes up for their lack of skill.

I spend my days riding—and walking when I can't ride—the length of the wall. Although everyone is enthusiastic, they still need direction. It takes me all day to ride the three miles because I have to stop and take care of problems as they come up. So far nothing really bad has happened—just running out of materials or minor injuries. Though their hands are raw from carrying materials, they are not complaining. I try to encourage them, because I want them to know that I really appreciate their diligence.

Sanballat and his friends are often around harassing people. They don't get too close, but they're shouting insults at the workers. I don't think they're dangerous, but I have to reassure some of the workers. When I see them, I shout, "The God of heaven will give us success" (Nehemiah 2:20).

Those who are building the gates have developed a system. They lay the beams, then they set the doors, bolts, and bars. Brilliant! I'm working with some very efficient people. These people are working on the gates:



Sheep: Eliashib's group, Jericho city group, Imri family

Fish: Hassenaah family, Uriah/Hakkoz family, Berekiah/Meshezabel family, Zadok Baana, Tekoites



Jeshanah: Joiada and Meshullam, Gibeonites, Mizpah district, goldsmith group, perfume-makers, Rephaiah, Jedaiah, Hattush, Malkijah, Hashub, and Shallum Hallohesh with his daughters(!)

Valley: Zanoah City group (led by Hanun)

Trash: Malkijah Rechab of the Beth Hakkerem district (working by himself)

Fountain: Shallun Kol-Hozeh (Mizpah district ruler—also building the wall of the Pool of Siloam of the king's garden, as far as the stairs)

Horse: Priests, each one opposite his own house

Inspection: Malchijah the goldsmith (opposite the gate)

The priests are repairing the areas around their homes.

7

Wednesday

READ Read Nehemiah 3:1-5.

CHECK Which group refused to work hard? Why?

- ❑ the Levites
- ❑ Benjamin and Hasshub
- ❑ the nobles from Tekoa
- ❑ the daughters of Shallum

PRAY Ask God to help you be willing to be a part of His team.

Thursday

READ Read Ecclesiastes 9:10.

ORGANIZE Plan a way to serve your community.

DO Work with a team to accomplish your plan.

PRAY Ask God to reveal His plan to you.

Friday

READ Read Psalm 127:1 together.

DISCUSS Based on this verse, what gives true success? How could you apply this to your life?

DISCUSS At worship, plan a family service project.

PRAY Ask God to bless the individuals to whom your family will reach out.



I have drawn a map of the wall. This way I'll know where to find my people, in case Sanballat threatens to attack.



PUZZLE
7

SUCCESSFUL PLANNING

Instructions: Consider the following verse:

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans" (Proverbs 16:3).

Can you fit all the words of this verse in the grid below? Words can run frontwards or backwards. To get you started, a few of the letters have been given to you.

