

7

Building Plans

Service
We reveal God's love by serving.

POWER TEXT

"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).

KEY REFERENCES

- Nehemiah 2; 3
- *Prophets and Kings,* chap. 53, pp. 635-645
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 6, pp. 111-114
- student story on page 82 of this guide.

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries
- No. 11, Growing in Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that being organized and unified helps them serve better.
- **Feel** a desire to be better organized as they serve God.
- **Respond** by making a plan with someone else to serve others for God.

POWERPOINT

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

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

People of all walks of life and occupations, and from all parts of the country, come together to help Nehemiah rebuild the wall. Working on the wall are businessmen, rulers, women, children, and poor people. Every stratum of Jewish society is represented. Imagine the details that have to be worked out so everyone will be at the right place at the right time with the right supplies and equipment. Imagine how Nehemiah felt at the end of each day.

Nehemiah's attention to detail helps to make the building process easier. And, because most of the people work together, the restoration of the wall begins without any major problems.

This is a lesson about service.

Nehemiah's prayers and careful planning enabled him to be a more effective servant. Just as Nehemiah's organization blessed those with whom he worked, so we too can serve God more effectively by careful planning.

Teacher Enrichment

"Jerusalem was a large city, and because many roads converged there, it required many gates. The wall on each side of these heavy wooden gates was taller and thicker so soldiers could stand guard to defend the gates against attack. Sometimes two stone towers guarded the gate. In times of peace, the city gates were hubs of activity—city council was held there, and shopkeepers set up their wares at the entrance. Building the city walls and gates was not only a military priority, but also a boost for trade and commerce" (*Life Application Bible* Notes and Bible Helps [Wheaton, Ill., Tyndale House, 1991], p. 800).

What strategies do I use when I make plans to serve God? What should I do when I face difficulties in working with others? With whom could I work together for God as I serve others?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Autograph Hunt* *B. Floor Plan*	index cards or paper, pencils pencils, paper, tacks, pushpins, or tape
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 77. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, serving hands offering device, world map, pushpins
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	 Bibles versions of the Bible, slips of paper
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*The More We Work Together*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Secret Service*	
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ index cards OR paper
- ☐ pencils

Autograph Hunt

Give each student an index card or piece of paper and a pencil. Each student must get everyone's signature on their card. Encourage students to collect as many signatures as they can as fast as they can. Begin timing the students as they collect signatures. Call stop when the first person is done.

Debriefing

Announce how long it took for the first person to finish.

Ask: **What took you so long? How many of you collected the signature of** (the winner's name)**? Did anyone refuse to sign a paper? How important was it to cooperate with everyone else? What did you learn from this activity?** (When we work together, we all achieve our goals.) **What benefits were there in working together?** Read 1 Corinthians 1:10 aloud:

"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).

Say: **Our power point this week is:**

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

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ papers
- ☐ tacks
- ☐ pushpins or tape

Floor Plan

Tell the students they are to imagine that your church has just been given an attractive building or house in the neighborhood near the church. The money has also been provided to completely remodel the inside of the building and redesign it for service.

Imagine it is presently just one large open space inside. In small groups, have the students draw a floor plan of how they would redesign the building. Give everyone pencil and paper and tell them they have seven minutes to have their plan ready. When the time is up, have the groups tape or pin their plan to a bulletin board or wall. Have the students explain their plans for the following:

1. Space for feeding the homeless
2. A kitchen for fixing food
3. Space where a homeless family could spend the night
4. Storage space for Community Services
5. Anything unique for serving the needs of children

Debriefing

Ask: **What benefits were there in working together?** Read 1 Corinthians 1:10 aloud:

"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).

Say: **Today we are learning that**

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

Accommodations for students with special needs:
Students with special needs may benefit from working closely with a partner who could assist them with this activity.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Lord, Be Glorified" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 148)
"Glorify You" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 21)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ serving hands offering device

Continue to use the serving hands offering device created last week.

Say: **One of the ways that we can plan to help others is with our money. When we plan ahead and bring our offerings, it makes it possible for God's message to be spread around the world.**

Prayer

Ask the students to form a circle and say sentence prayers for help in planning ways to reach others for Jesus.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **Have you ever hiked to some famous lookout or climbed down into some famous cavern, and when you got there you couldn't believe how people had defaced the beauty by painting or carving their name into rocks or trees? Why do you think people do that?** (Maybe they worked so hard to get there that they just wanted everyone to know they made it.) **We'll read about people like that today.**

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Encourage everyone to open their Bibles to Nehemiah 3. Act as if you plan to read the whole chapter. Ask the students to take turns reading a verse each. Ask: **What is going on in this chapter?** (They recorded where they built and who did it.) **So what were the various gates that they rebuilt?**

Say: **Skim through and tell me.** (Sheep Gate, Fish Gate, Jeshanah Gate, Broad Wall, Tower of the Ovens, Valley Gate, Dung [Trash] Gate, Fountain Gate, Pool of Siloam, Water Gate, Horse Gate, East Gate, Inspection Gate, and the wall on either side of them.)

Debriefing

Ask: **What impressed you about Nehemiah 3?** (God notices what you do; He remembers your name; it took a lot of people serving together to get the job done, etc.) **If Malkijah Harim from verse 11 got a chance to read Nehemiah's book, how do you think he felt?** (He probably read it often, showed it to his grandchildren when he was old.) **What if your names were on this page? How would that change the way you feel about the chapter?** (I would value it more.) **What evidence is there that Nehemiah had a plan?** (Not only are the people named, but which section they worked on. Nehemiah appears really organized.) **How does the power point go along with our lesson today?**

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

YOU NEED:
- ☐ versions of the Bible
- ☐ slips of paper

Exploring the Bible

Divide the class into four groups, each with an adult facilitator, if possible. Write the following verses and questions on slips of paper.

1. Exodus 17:12. Who served? What plan did they follow? What results did they have?

2. Judges 20:11. Who served? What plan did they follow? What results did they have?

3. 1 Samuel 14:6. Who served? What plan did they follow? What results did they have?

4. Mark 2:3. Who served? What plan did they follow? What results did they have?

Provide each group with one of the four slips of paper. Ask each group to read the passage from two or three versions of the Bible, if available. Give each group five minutes to read the passage and write down answers to the questions. Ask each group to select a spokesperson to report back to the entire class on the results of their study. When the time is up, gather the entire class together and say: **Let's discover some of the instances in the Bible when people had a plan, cooperated with each other, and achieved their goals. We will find out who served, what plan they followed, and with what results.** Allow groups to report.

Say: **Let's say together our power text found in 1 Corinthians 1:10:**

"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).

The More We Work Together

Say: **Imagine the government in our country has just passed a law that prevents adults from preaching the gospel or doing church work. But the law does not mention students.**

Ask: **What ministries in your church could be stopped by such a law? What might students do about it? What plans for working together might your group come up with?** Give time for them to share with the rest of the class.

Debriefing

Congratulate the students on their plans. Pray together that God will open your eyes to see what students can do for Him.

Ask: **Which of these plans can we go ahead and carry out now? What would it take to really follow through? What is stopping us?**

Say: **Let's say the power point together as a promise from God:**

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

4

SHARING THE LESSON

Secret Service

Say: **Today's lesson provides the secret of service. The secret is that we can do amazing things if we have three things:**

1. **Attitude — a willingness to serve**
2. **Unity — a positive attitude about serving together**
3. **A plan — not just any plan, God's plan**

Ask: **What if you don't have one or more of these secret ingredients?** (Accept responses.) **Where do you get them?** (from God) **How do you get them?** (through prayer, perseverance, and faith)

Have students develop a "Secret Service." Each member of the Sabbath School "Secret Service" must have a "mission" of service to accomplish each week. Brainstorm and have students choose their "mission." Next week at Sabbath School each will report on the progress of their "mission."

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray that God will reveal His love to each of your students this week, and that they will share that love by loving their neighbor-in-need.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Nehemiah trusts God. God promises to meet our needs when we serve Him.**

Notes

Student lesson

Building Plans

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 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.

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

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

POWER TEXT

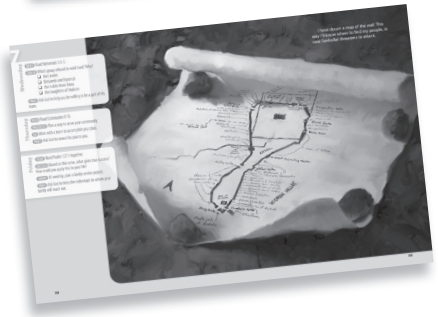
"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

POWER POINT

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







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 60.

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.

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.