# The Walls Go Up

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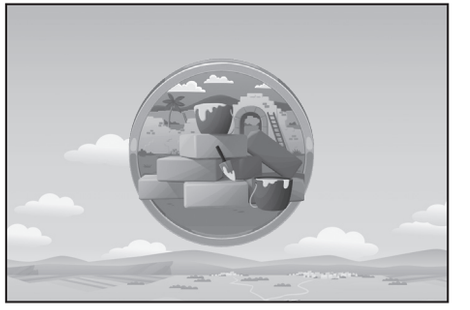
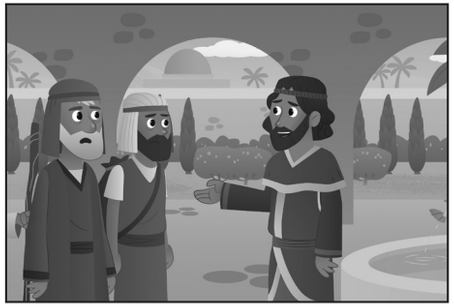


**Nehemiah and Ezra**
**Nehemiah 1-4; 6:15-16; 8:1-3; 10:28-29; 12:27**

**Nehemiah was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia. Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem was in ruins and that his friends there were in trouble. He asked God to help them.**

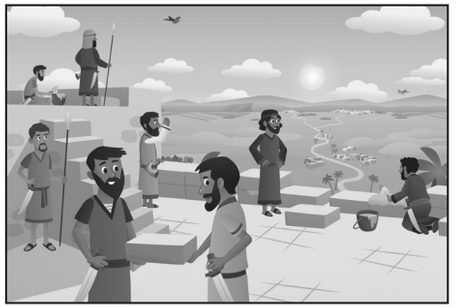


**God gave Nehemiah the courage to speak to King Artaxerxes. Nehemiah asked if he could go to Jerusalem and help them fix their walls. Artaxerxes agreed. Nehemiah left for Jerusalem.**

**Nehemiah walked around Jerusalem. Things were even worse than he'd heard. "This will be a big job," he told the people, "but, with God's help, we can rebuild these walls."**

**Everyone worked in families and groups, fixing the gates first. They fixed the Sheep Gate, the Fish Gate, the Dung Gate, and the other gates. Then they started rebuilding the walls.**

**First, their enemies laughed. But as the walls grew higher, those enemies prepared to attack. So God's people worked with a tool in one hand and a sword in the other.**



**After just 52 days, the wall was finished! Ezra, the priest, read God's law to the people. They promised to obey God's law and praised Him for protecting them.**