

GODLY LEADERS

SCRIPTURE - Nehemiah 6

ACTIVITY MATERIALS (Optional): No supplies needed.

ACTIVITY/INTRODUCTION:

Gather then children for a game of “follow the leader”. Allow each child have a turn being the leader. Instruct the leader to give instructions that are poor and instructions that are good. Once each child has had a turn gather then children together and ask them if they could tell when the leader was being a good leader and when the leader was being a poor leader. Discuss the different ways to tell the leaders apart.

SAY: Today we are going to read about Nehemiah as he and the Israelites faced more challenges and how he led his people well.

SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 6:1-19

Nehemiah and the Israelites had just finished rebuilding the wall, but hadn't finished installing the doors. When Sanballat and their other enemies heard they finished the wall they were not happy. Sanballat and the others wanted to meet with Nehemiah, they wanted him to leave the wall which wouldn't be a good choice because the doors weren't done and it wouldn't but Nehemiah in a vulnerable situation. Nehemiah didn't go because he recognized that it wouldn't be good for him or his people. Sanballat and the others were still not happy so they began to say untrue things (lies) about Nehemiah, writing he wanted to take over and the king of Persia wouldn't like that. You wouldn't think Nehemiah would want to defend himself because someone was spreading rumors about him but instead Nehemiah was confident in who he was and let his character (his actions and how he treated people) speak for him. You would think that at this point Nehemiah had been through enough but there was more. One of the priest, Shemaiah, told Nehemiah he should hide in the temple. This wasn't good advice for a few reasons 1) Nehemiah wasn't a priest so he wasn't allowed in the temple 2) hiding wasn't the answer and 3) the priest wasn't on Nehemiah's side so it wouldn't have helped him to listen to him.

Nehemiah faced a lot in the process of following God's will and leading God's people in rebuilding the wall. But he didn't face any of it on his own, he had God on his side. He was able to lead well and the wall was completed because Nehemiah and the Israelites lived obediently and trusted God.

Q: *Do you think Nehemiah was a good leader?*

A: *Yes. He listened to God rather than man.*

Q: *How did Nehemiah make the choice not to meet with Sanballat?*

A: *He used discernment which is listening to God to see what is right and wrong.*

Q: *Do you think it was hard for Nehemiah not to defend himself when Sanballat wrote those lies about him?*

A: *Yes. But if you live according to God's desire for your life it doesn't matter what other people think or say about you.*

Q: *Do you think Nehemiah ever wanted to give up or hide?*

A: *Maybe, but what is important is that he was focused on God and he was surrendered to God who led him through each hard moment.*

Q: *How was Nehemiah and the Israelites able to complete the wall in 52 days?*

A: *God was with them from the beginning. (Review everything that had happened because of God.)*

CLOSING:

Discuss different ways that you can show godly leadership in your home, at school, with friends, or in every day life. How can we make sure that we are being faithful leaders to those over which God has given us authority?

PRAYER TIME

Take a few moments to thank God for his blessings. Pray for your family. Pray for our church. Pray for our country and its leaders. Pray that God would help you to learn how to be a godly leader.