

Week 2

Theme: *The Building Site: God's call to build it*– trust God together

Game: Defending Jerusalem – You need 2 teams. The defenders are defending the city of Jerusalem and form a circle, holding hands. The attackers stand outside of the circle with a ball. A defender stands in the centre of the circle. The attackers have to get the ball on the floor inside the circle. They may kick it between the legs of the defenders or throw it over their heads. The child in the centre can throw the ball anywhere outside the circle. Once the ball has landed inside the circle 3 times, Jerusalem is considered to have fallen and the two teams change sides.

Topple – Divide children into teams. You need a tray for each team and 12 stackable objects. On 'Go', first pair of children build a stack of 12 objects then have to carry the tray and stack together around a chair and back to start point. If they manage to carry it without toppling their tower, they score 5 points. Once the stack has been made there is no need to rebuild it each time.

Memory verse: 1 Corinthians 3:9, "*For we are partners working together for God.*" Have a pile of memory verse pieces. On one side write the name of the gate and a brief description. On the other side there is the word from the verse. Once assembled, the reverse will reveal the gates in the order they were worked on. *See resources for simple details of the gates.*

Introduction: You need: plates, spoons, icing sugar made up or jam, Rich Tea biscuits. Divide into teams or groups of up to 4. Give the teams / groups 30 seconds to plan and then 20 seconds to build the highest (most secure) wall by "cementing" biscuits together with icing / jam. The most successful walls will be those where the children worked as a team – each with their part to play.

Story: *Nehemiah 2 verse 8 and chapter 3.* Appoint a scorer. Tell the children they need to listen very carefully. Each time they hear the word "work -er, -ed, -ing," they need to mime hammering (one fist pounds the other hand). The scorer keeps a tally. (*See resources*)

Application: Have you ever spent a long time building or rebuilding something only to have it knocked down by someone else? How did you feel? God's people felt the same way. Ever since the Jewish people had been taken captive, they longed to return to Israel and worship God there in the holy city. Because of this, Nehemiah was able to motivate the people to work together to repair the wall. Everyone had a job to do. Some were stronger than others, some were younger or more skilled. But all of them worked together to ensure the city was rebuilt. We can all be God's workers today. Every one of us has something to offer. God has given us all skills and when we use them together as a team, we can achieve great things. God loves that! In the book of Nehemiah all the workers are named as a sign that God cares for each and every one of us.

Prayer: Copy enough "God's worker" ID badges for all the children. Get them to complete the name and portrait. (*See resources*)

Final game: If there is time, have a quick game of 'SPLAT' or other favourite.

Song: "*Hands, hands, fingers, thumbs*" from **My God is So Big , Vol 2 , CD**

Resources: There is a story, memory verse and prayer idea in the resources section, together with this week's fun sheet.

Week 2 : Story

"Come—Let's Build the Wall of Jerusalem"

Nehemiah 2: 8 – end and chapter 3 (adapted from The Message)

Score keeper keeps a tally of times work / worked / worker / working said to compare at the end. Each time children hear the words "work" or "worked", they mime hammering into their hand.

And so I arrived in Jerusalem. I hadn't told anyone what **work** my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. Under cover of night I inspected the wall. The local officials had no idea where I'd gone or what I was doing—I hadn't breathed a word to the Jews, priests, nobles, local officials, or anyone else who would be **working** on the job.

Then I gave them my report: "Face it: we're in a bad way here. Jerusalem is a wreck; its gates are burned up. Come—let's build the wall of Jerusalem. It'll be a lot of **work** and we will all need to help but I don't want to live with this disgrace any longer." I told them how God was supporting me and how the king was backing me up. They said, "We'll **work** with you. Let's get started." They rolled up their sleeves, ready for the good **work**.

The high priest and his fellow priests were up and at it: They went to **work** on the Sheep Gate; they repaired it and hung its doors. The men of Jericho **worked** alongside them. The Fish Gate was repaired with new doors, bolts and bars. Men from different families **worked** beside each other. Family after family rolled up their sleeves to **work** together to rebuild each section. They **worked** section by section, gate by gate, each with their own part to **work** on. The Valley Gate, Dung Gate and Fountain Gate were rebuilt and repaired. Men worked on the Water Gate, Horse Gate and East Gate. Night and day the **work** continued. It didn't matter what your craft - goldsmith **worked** with merchant.

I recorded every name and every family to mark their part in this great **work**. Because God cares for each person **working** in His name. Neighbours **worked** together, women, children. All **worked** to rebuild the wall to bring honour back to God.

All kinds of people were involved in the building - priests goldsmiths and perfumers, rulers , temple servants, merchants . In God's **work**, there is something for everyone to do, Every one was involved. And every one rolled up their sleeves to help. All were partners **working** together for God.

(In this passage, the word "work /worked/worker/working" appeared 19 times)

Week 2 : The Gates (memory verse game)

1 Corinthians 3:9, “For we are partners working together for God.”

Write the name of the gate on a piece of paper, 1 per team, and on the reverse of each gate sign write one word of the verse as indicated. The additional information is for leader’s ...you can include it if you think it is appropriate.

The Ten Gates of Jerusalem.

1. Sheep Gate (vs 1& 32). The sheep and lambs used in the Temple sacrifice were brought through this gate. *(on reverse write.... For)*

2. Fish Gate (vs 3). It was called the fish gate because the fisherman of Galilee would bring their catch in through this gate to be sold. *(on reverse write we)*

3. Old Gate (vs 6). This is also known as Jeshanah Gate. *(on reverse write are)*

4. Valley Gate (vs 13) was situated overlooking the Kidron Valley.
(on reverse write...partners)

5. Dung (Rubbish) Gate (vs 14). The refuse and rubbish from the city was taken through this gate out of Jerusalem, down to the valley of Hinnom to be burned.
(on reverse writeworking)

6. Fountain Gate (vs 15). Sometimes known as ‘The Beautiful Gate’.
(on reverse write....together)

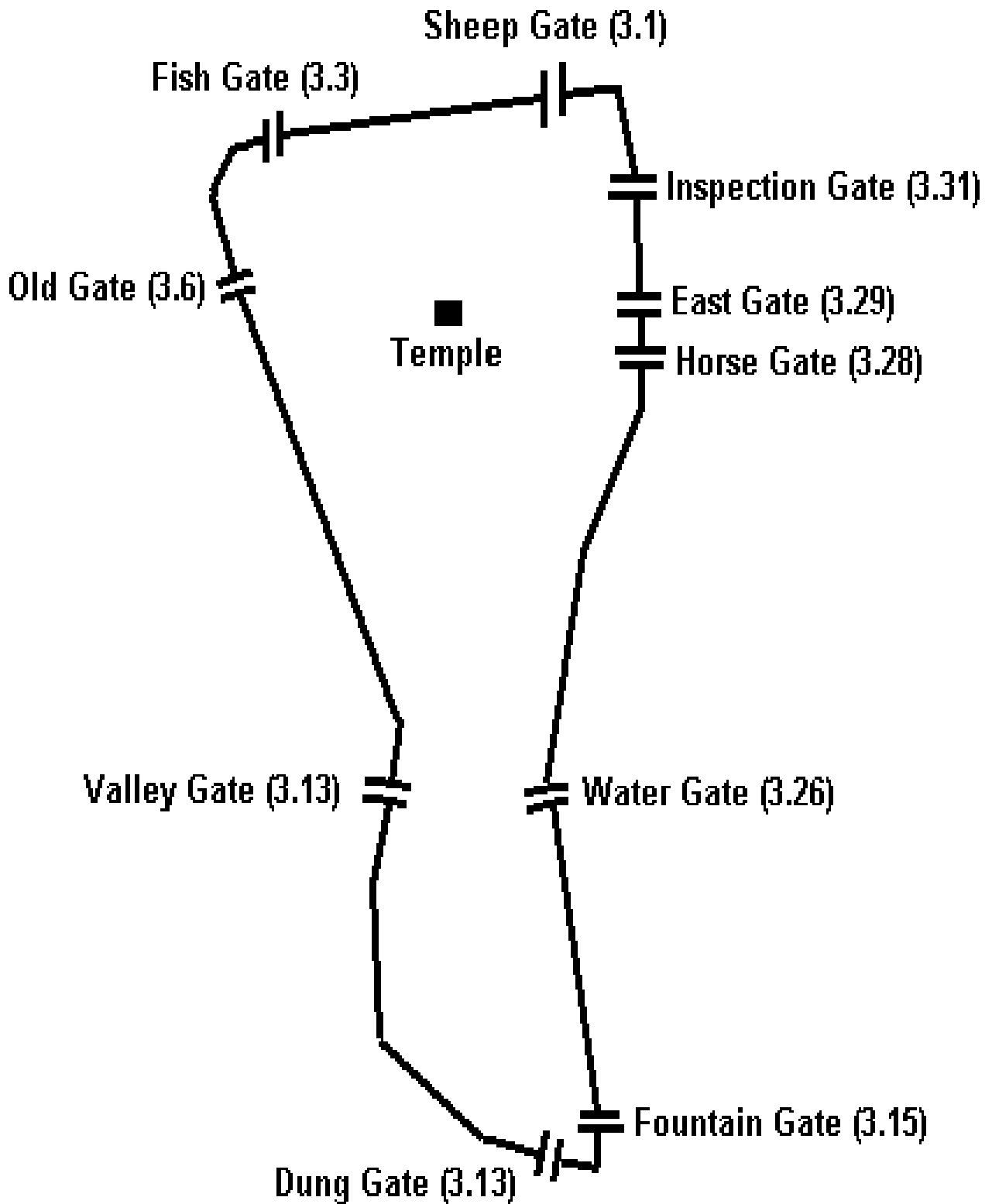
7. Water Gate (vs 26) .The Water Gate was located at the beginning of Hezekiah’s tunnel and the spring of Gihon.
(on reverse write for)

8. Horse Gate (vs 28) .The Horse Gate was used to take horses out for water.
(on reverse write God)

9. East Gate (vs 29). The East gate has been set-aside especially by God for the coming of the Messiah. It is also known as the Golden Gate and remains closed today.
(on reverse write 1 Corinthians)

10. Inspection Gate (vs 31) . The final gate is the inspection gate also known as Miphkad (meaning “watched” or “accounted for”). People came here to register for temple tax.
(on reverse write 3:9)

Nehemiah's Jerusalem



Week 2: Prayer activity: Complete the "photo" and ID details.

<h1>God's Worker I.D</h1>	
	Name : Age : I will do God's work by : Signed :

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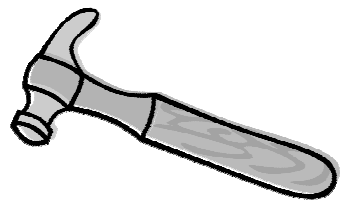
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Week 2: The Building Site – God’s call to build it!

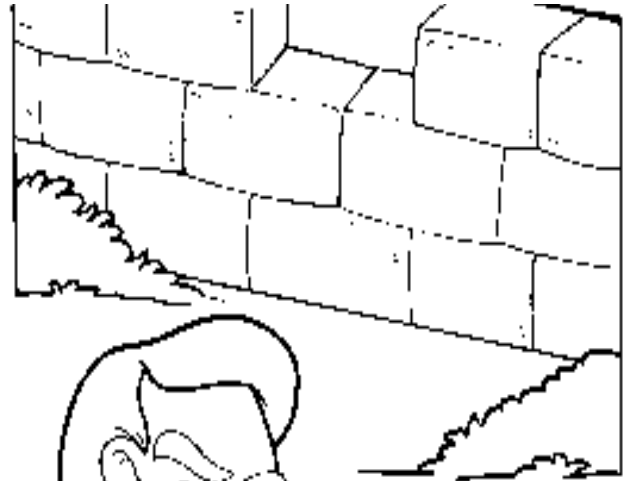


Can you solve this puzzle? Not all the letters are needed. There are some filled in to give you a helping hand. Your prayer craft is a clue!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
11				7				14						4						24					

 I A O ' O E
 14 11 15 6 4 25 13 19 4 17 8 7 17

1 Corinthians 3:9 ,
 “For we are
 partners
 working together
 for God.”



Find the Gates in the word search below!

j e s h a n a h l p v f j e n
 n e f d a u e u d a e e x a o
 f d a o a c f u l m v e g s i
 d x r q u i y l q o m h h t t
 x u e d t n e k l x i j f s c
 n t n u o y t d t u p n v o e
 o r a g y n e a z f h t v d p
 n e d l o g o k i a k g b h s
 n b f o e e q g l n a v a c n
 w w j s c d k z r i d r g j i
 a f r f i s h e a z k e l y m
 s o s v q s e e w w s t y l j
 h q g a u i k v p p d a o z s
 e i d f y q q o s e x w i o f
 j o i s j e z p q z y z a p z

dung golden horse inspection
 jeshanah miphkad beautiful old fish
 sheep valley east fountain water

Some of the gates had more than one name. Can you match the correct pairs by drawing a line between them?

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| Old | Golden |
| Fountain | Jeshanah |
| East | Miphkad |
| Inspection | Beautiful |