

Week 4

Theme: *The Building Inspector: God's call to enable it* - No one can stop God !

Game: Snatch – Divide the children into 4 teams and send each team to a corner in the room. In the centre of the room, place a hoop with a pile of coloured counters or similar. On 'Go' one child from each team runs to centre and collects ONE counter for their team. Only one team member can move at a time. However, the runner may opt instead to snatch an item from an opposing team instead of running to the centre. Teams may not hide their objects or defend them. Only one object may be transferred at a time. To vary the game, tell the teams that the team with the least number of objects will win. Teams will then try and offload their objects. Vary it again by saying that objects of certain colour are worth more etc.

Shoe pile – Children are put into 2 teams with a pile of their shoes in the centre of the room. The teams stand opposite each other and are numbered from left to right. Leader calls a number and the players with that number (one from each team) run to the centre, find their shoes and put them on. First child to return to their place wins a point. Play until all the children have their shoes on!

Memory verse: Ephesians 6:16a *“At all times carry faith as a shield.”* Divide the children into 2 teams. One team are the runners. The other team are the enemy. Play a version of dodgeball. The runners run, one at a time, from one end of the room to the other. A piece of the verse is collected at one end. The enemy have 2 balls – 1 each side and try to hit the runner below the knee, as in dodgeball. If hit, the runner ends their go and the next runner makes an attempt. For each hit below the knee, the enemy also win a piece of the verse. Runners take turns to collect the pieces. Once all the pieces are collected, unscramble the verse.

Introduction: Set up an obstacle course with non hazardous obstacles! Select one child to be blindfolded and another to be their guide. The other children are allowed to call out, give false hints in order to distract the guide and blindfolded child. The guide helps with words not by touch so the distractions from the other children will certainly make it harder.

Story: *Nehemiah 6 : 1-16* The workers had almost finished the wall. All that remained was to hang the doors but then Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem the Arab tried once again to halt the project. They even threatened to report to the king that Nehemiah was planning to fight against the king. The wall was completed in only 52 days! Even the enemies knew that God helped the people do it. *There is an idea for an acted version of the story in the resources.*

Application: Under Sanballat and Tobiah's instruction, Shemaiah is someone who is looking for ways to discourage the workers and make Nehemiah look bad. He finds lots of little faults and tries to make them seem worse. These attacks are distracting and discouraging. Sometimes, we can be trying really hard to follow God but little distractions or niggles make us doubt ourselves and God! We need to remember that nothing can stop God. He is always with us and always on our side. He will help us deal with conflict.

Prayer: Make shields from paper plates, tape a strip of paper at the back as a hand grip. Lower the shields for "Thank you" prayers. Raise the shields in protection for "Please help me" prayers.

Song: *“Help me be your eyes, Lord Jesus”, Doug Horley, Fandabidozzie CD*

Resources: There is a story and fun sheet in the resources

Week 4: Story (Nehemiah 6:1- 16)

Cast: *Sanballat, Geshem, Tobiah, group of enemies, messenger 1, messenger 2, Shemaiah, Narrator 1 and 2, Nehemiah, workers*

Narrator 1: Sanballat, Geshem and Tobiah and the rest of the enemies heard that we had finished building the wall and that there were no gaps. Once the gates were in place it would be finished.

Narrator 2: So Sanballat and Geshem sent a messenger to Nehemiah with a message.

Messenger 1: (*To Nehemiah*) Go and meet Sanballat and Geshem in the plains of Ono. They want to talk to you.

Nehemiah: I don't think so. Tell them I am doing important work here. I'm not going to stop the work just to go and see them.

Narrator 1: Sanballat and Geshem sent the same message four times

Narrator 2: And Nehemiah gave them the same answer each time.

Narrator 1: Then Sanballat sent another message with a letter.

Messenger 2: Dear Nehemiah. There is a rumour going around that you are planning to make yourself king. You had better hope that the real king doesn't hear about it. I think we should meet up to talk about the situation. Love from your friend Sanballat.

Nehemiah: Mr. Sanballat. Not likely! You have made all this up. None of it is true. And you are not my friend. Signed Nehemiah. (pause) Mmmm. I had better pray. "Dear God. They are trying to frighten us into stopping the work. Please make me strong. Amen."

Narrator 2: Nehemiah went to visit Shemaiah who was unable to leave his house but Sanballat and the other enemies had already spoken to him and given him a bribe of expensive wine.

Shemaiah: They'll kill you ! You're in danger Nehemiah! Let's hide together inside the Holy Place in the Temple!

Nehemiah: I won't do it Shemaiah. I won't run and hide in a forbidden place, just because you say someone is going to kill me!"
Nehemiah leaves Shemaiah's house.

Nehemiah: I have so many enemies. Shemaiah pretended I would be safe in the Temple, but it was a trap to kill me. Sanballat must have bribed him with expensive wine to frighten me into doing the wrong thing so that they could ruin my reputation and shame me.

Narrator 1: After 52 days of work the entire wall was finished.

Narrator 2: When Sanballat and our enemies heard this, they realized that they had lost face and that would be shamed because now everyone knew that the work had been done with God's help.

Narrator: God the builder. Can he fix it?

All: Yes he can!

“At all times carry faith as a shield.”



Ephesians 6:16a

Find the words below in the word search

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

bribe
enemies
geshem
letter
nehemiah
rumour
shamed
temple
wall

building
finished
king
messenger
pray
sanballat
shemaiah
tobiah

Inside this shield, write down or draw things you can do when you are distracted from doing things God's way.



Look carefully at this picture! There are lots of things distracting Dad as he drives. How many can you spot?

