



Plain Oh No!

By Deborah Wassenberg

*The devil will seek to destroy the plans God has for children's lives. But when he can't destroy them he will try and distract children from them. The story of Nehemiah shows children the stumbling blocks the devil will use: threats, anger, discouragement, slander and conspiracy. Children will learn to say to him, 'that's a **plain oh no** from me!'*

You Tube Song Suggestions:

- Boom (chapelhill kids)
- Never Give Up (Hillsong Kids)
- Every Move I Make (CJ and Friends)
- Ever Be (Will's Worship Videos)

Bible Lesson: Nehemiah Builds a Wall

Bible Reference: Nehemiah Chapters 1-13

You'll find illustrations for this story at [Free Bible Images](#). [Nehemiah: Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem \(16 images\)](#) and [Nehemiah: Overcoming opposition to rebuilding \(23 images\)](#).

Suggested Visuals:

1. Nehemiah the cup bearer
2. Nehemiah is devastated
3. Nehemiah and the king
4. Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem
5. Men working and men on guard
6. The Plain on Ono or map
7. Things that distract kids
8. Kids doing things for God
9. A scroll
10. Nehemiah praying
11. Celebration!

Words:

1. Nehemiah was a Jew living in Babylon, (like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and Esther). His job was cupbearer to the king of Persia. A cupbearer is a personal bodyguard to the king who tastes wine and food

before the king making certain no one is trying to poison him. It was an important job but Nehemiah's heart was for God and his people and their home in Jerusalem.

2. One day Nehemiah had a visit from his brother, Hanani. Nehemiah was excited to hear all the news from Jerusalem. But his brother told him, 'Everyone back home is in great trouble and disgrace. The wall around Jerusalem is broken down and the gates have been burned with fire.' Nehemiah was so upset to hear this. He sat down and cried. He mourned, fasted and prayed to God for forgiveness and asked God to hear his prayer.
3. Nehemiah was so upset he couldn't hide it from the king. And he'd never been sad in his presence before because it was forbidden. The king asked him, 'Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This must be nothing but sadness of the heart.' Nehemiah told the king, 'The wall of the city of Jerusalem is in ruins and its gates are destroyed by fire.' The king gave permission for Nehemiah to go home to Jerusalem. He gave Nehemiah letters to provide safe conduct while traveling. He gave him timber to make beams for new gates, the wall, and a house for Nehemiah to live in during construction. The king also sent army officers and cavalry along to make sure Nehemiah got there safely. Nehemiah led the Jewish people in rebuilding.
4. But Nehemiah had some ruthless enemies who did not want the Israelites to return to Jerusalem. Their names were Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem. They mocked and ridiculed Nehemiah and laughed at him. Nehemiah said to them, 'The God of heaven will give us success. We His servants will start rebuilding, but as for you three, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.' Bit by bit, the gates, walls and towers of Jerusalem were being rebuilt. Roofing, doors, bolts and bars were put in place. Even the wall of the Pool of Siloam was repaired.
5. Sanballat was furious. 'What are those feeble Jews doing?' Tobiah said, 'Their building is so bad even a fox climbing on it would

break it down!' They tried to discourage the builders by criticising them.
They plotted together to come and stir up trouble against Jerusalem.
'We will kill them and put an end to their work.'
From that day on Nehemiah told half the men to work and the other
half to stand guard with spears, shields, bows and armour.
Everyone carried a weapon, even when going to get water.

6. Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem could not stop the building, and it was almost finished,
so they tried another scheme to stop Nehemiah.

They sent him a message.

'Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the Plain of Ono.'

They wanted to distract Nehemiah.

To get him to leave the work and come and talk.

To lure him down to the **Plain of Ono** to kill him.

Nehemiah sent a message back.

'I am working on a big project. I cannot leave what I am doing.

Why should I leave what I am doing to come down to you?'

7. When we do something for God and we're making progress,
the devil will try and stop us using people to criticise and attack us.
When that doesn't work he will try and distract us.

'Leave what you're doing and come down here!'

We have to do what Nehemiah did.

(Hold hand up in a stop sign)

'Devil, I am working on a big project for God. I cannot leave what I am doing.

So, it's a **plain oh no** from me!'

8. A second time Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem sent a message.

'Leave what you're doing and come and talk on the Plain of Ono.'

Nehemiah sent the same message back.

The devil will try again to distract you.

You must not be side tracked.

(Hold hand up in a stop sign)

'Devil, I am working on a big project for God. I cannot leave what I am doing.

So, it's a **plain oh no** from me!'

A third time Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem sent the same message.

A third time Nehemiah sent the same reply.

The devil is persistent. He will try so hard to stop you

(Hold hand up in a stop sign)

'Devil, I am working on a big project for God. I cannot leave what I am doing.

So, it's a **plain oh no** from me!'

A fourth time Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem sent the same message.

A fourth time Nehemiah sent the same reply.

The devil is seeing, 'Are you really going to stick with what God wants you to do?'

(Hold up hand in a stop sign)

'Devil, I am working on a project for God. I cannot leave what I am doing.
So, it's a **plain oh no** from me!'

9. The fifth time Sanballat sent a letter to Nehemiah.

'Dear Nehemiah,

It has been reported everywhere - and Geshem says it's true – that you and the Jews are planning a revolution and that's why you're rebuilding the wall.

And according to these reports you are going to make yourself king!

They say you have appointed prophets to say you are the king.

We already have a king. This serious report might get back to him.

So, come, let us meet together.'

Nehemiah sent his own letter back.

'Dear Sanballat,

Nothing like what you have said is happening; you are just making it up out of your head.'

The devil will tell lies about you to stop you working for God.

(Hold up your hand in a stop sign)

'Devil, you are a liar. So, it's a **plain oh no** from me!'

10. They said to Nehemiah, 'Your hands are too weak, you'll never finish.'

Nehemiah prayed, 'God, strengthen my hands.'

They tried to trick Nehemiah and give him a bad name.

'Run for your life into the temple. Close the doors!

Someone is going to try and kill you.'

Nehemiah said, 'Should a man like me run away? Should I go and hide in the temple to save my own life? I will not go!'

They could not trick Nehemiah.

11. The rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem was finished in 52 days!

They celebrated with beautiful food and sweet drink, music and singing.

Hundreds of people returned to Jerusalem and the wall was dedicated to God.

Ministry to the Children:

One day God will give you a job to do for Him. He is preparing you with this lesson today because the devil will try and stop you from doing what God wants you to do. And if he can't stop you he'll try and distract you with something else. Anything to stop you from doing whatever God has put in your heart to do.

Always remember *(hold up your hand in a stop sign)* '**plain oh no!**'

Jesus was crucified on a cross. People passed by the cross and insulted Jesus. They shook their heads and said, 'Come down from the cross and save yourself.' *(Mark 15:30)*

But Jesus had a job to do. The greatest and most important job ever and that was to die for the sins of the whole world. He would not come down. Jesus died and God raised Him from the dead and made Him Lord of all. If you believe that, you can be saved today. (*Altar Call*)

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

Tools of the Trade

You'll need pictures of all types of carpenter's tools. Write words of the Memory Verse on each one and hide them around the room for the children to find. (Laminate them if you'd like to keep them as a resource for another time.)



Character: Trevor the Tradie
Wearing hard hat, sun safe long sleeve shirt, shorts, socks and boots.
The tradie is also wearing an empty tool belt and has a phone in a pocket.

Tradie enters the Kid's Church, not paying attention to the children, but looking around the floor in search of something. Trevor is a tradesman (called a 'Tradie' in Australia).

Trevor: (*Sees the children*)
G'day!
My name is Trevor and I'm a tradie.
Well, I'm learning to be a tradie.
A chippie. A carpenter, actually.
I'm an apprentice carpenter tradesman.

I'd fix something or build something to show you what I do,
but I have a small problem!
I've lost all the tools that should be in my tool belt.
(*Shows empty tool belt*)
I don't know how it happened.

I'm aiming to be the Apprentice of the Year,
But I can't be Apprentice of the Year if
I've lost my tools!
Hey, I've got a good idea!
Why don't you kids help me find them?

Trevor the Tradie is helped by the children to find all the missing tools. Together they realise the tools have words and they put them in the correct order to reveal the Memory Verse. They recite it together.

Trevor: Awesome!
I really needed to hear that Bible verse.
I'm not going to give up.
With God's help I'm going to stand firm.
I'm not going to be discouraged.
I'm going to keep on working hard.
(mobile phone rings)
Hello? Trevor the Tradie and potential
Apprentice of the Year nominee speaking.
Yeah boss?
We've got a job?
You little ripper!*
I'll be right there.
Hey kids, I've got to get to a new job now.
Thanks for helping me find my tools!
Might see you again. Bye.

*(*You 'little ripper' is Aussie slang for 'That's great!')*

Game: Guard the Wall

You will need:

- 'walls' made from milk cartons or stacked blocks
- one ball per small group

What to do:

Choose some children to be attackers and the other children to be guards. Form as many small groups of guards as there are milk carton walls. The object of the game is for the attackers to roll the ball and try and topple each milk carton wall while the guards protect the cartons by deflecting the ball and rolling it back at the attackers. If an attacker is tagged by the ball, he or she must sit down for the remainder of the game. If a carton is toppled, the guards protecting that carton move to help another group guard its carton. Continue until all the attackers are tagged or all the milk cartons are toppled.

Craft: Time Capsule

Children can make an individual Time Capsule to take home or collect all the Fact Sheets and put them inside one large Time Capsule to be opened in a nominated year.

You will need:

- Container or tube to be the Time Capsule
- Decorating items (e.g. stickers)
- Felt pens
- Wool
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Photocopy of the Time Capsule Fact Sheet for every child (see page 8)
(Leaders might like to fill one in, too!)
- Pens or pencils

What to do:

- Children decorate their Time Capsule and add their name and the date
- Measure their height with a length of wool and cut to put inside the capsule
- Fill out the Fact Sheet
- Seal the Fact Sheet inside the Time Capsule

My Time Capsule Fact Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Favourite: _____

Kid's Church song: _____

Food: _____

Bible Character: _____

Toy or game: _____

Book, TV show or movie: _____

Activity: _____

Colour: _____ Animal: _____

What do you want to do when you grow up? _____

What do you want to do for God? _____

Put your hand print here!

Sticky tape your wool here!