



NEW COV KIDS

STUDENT DEVOTIONAL
UNIT 18

Name: _____

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UNIT 18: HOPE TO COME

Session 1: The Walls Rebuilt Nehemiah 1-6



Sunday, February 1

What is the
Bible about?

The Bible is the story of
God's plan to save people
through Jesus.

Memory Verse: John 20:31

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

Monday,
February 2

SESSION 1



Before you read...

- ▶ This week we will go back to reading about God's people who returned to Jerusalem after exile. We will read from the book of the prophet, Nehemiah. Nehemiah had been living in Persia as a servant to the king, but he asked permission to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the city.
- ▶ Nehemiah faced many enemies and challenges as he tried to rebuild the walls. We are going to read about how Nehemiah faced those challenges.



Read Nehemiah 2:17-20

- ▶ What troubles do Nehemiah and God's people face in verse 17?

- ▶ Verse 19 lists three enemies of God and his people. What are their names?

- ▶ Bonus Question: What phrase did Pastor Jay use about one of these enemies? Ask your parents if they remember!

- ▶ Nehemiah believes they will be successful in rebuilding the walls. Where does he think they will get their success from?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read that Nehemiah believed the God of heaven would give them success in rebuilding their wall. Nehemiah had strong faith!
- ▶ We read the names of three enemies of God's people, Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem. We will continue to read about these pesky enemies.
- ▶ Nehemiah and God's people got to work on the walls. We will pick up the story again after they have done a lot of work on the walls and gates.



Read Nehemiah 4:1-6

- ▶ What did Sanballat do when he heard that the walls were being rebuilt?

- ▶ In verse 4, Nehemiah sort of responds to Sanballat. Who is Nehemiah actually speaking to?

- ▶ Did God's people stop rebuilding the wall? Do you think they were scared of the enemies?

Wednesday,
February 4

SESSION 1



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read that even though the enemies mocked God's people they kept on rebuilding the walls and worked with all their heart.
- ▶ We also read that Nehemiah and God's people did not fight back, but talked to God about the enemies instead.
- ▶ However, the enemies continue to plan against God's people.



Read Nehemiah 4:11-15

- ▶ What did the enemies of God's people plan to do?

- ▶ Nehemiah gives a speech to God's people in verse 14. What did he tell the people to do?

- ▶ What do you think was the best part of Nehemiah's speech in verse 14?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read that the enemies made a plan to kill God's people who were rebuilding the walls. But, Nehemiah prepared the people to be ready for the attack and to defend themselves.
- ▶ Today we will read about one more time when the enemies tried to stop Nehemiah and God's people.



Read Nehemiah 6:1-4

- ▶ How much of the wall was rebuilt now?

- ▶ What did Sanballat and his men plan to do this time?

- ▶ Nehemiah did not go to meet them. How do you think he knew they were trying to harm him?

Friday,
February 6

SESSION 1



Before you read...

- ▶ This week we have read that Nehemiah believed God would give them success, that Nehemiah prayed and asked God to punish the enemies, and that Nehemiah encouraged the people to remember the Lord and defend themselves in His name.
- ▶ Each time, God's people were able to continue their work on the walls and not be affected by the enemies.



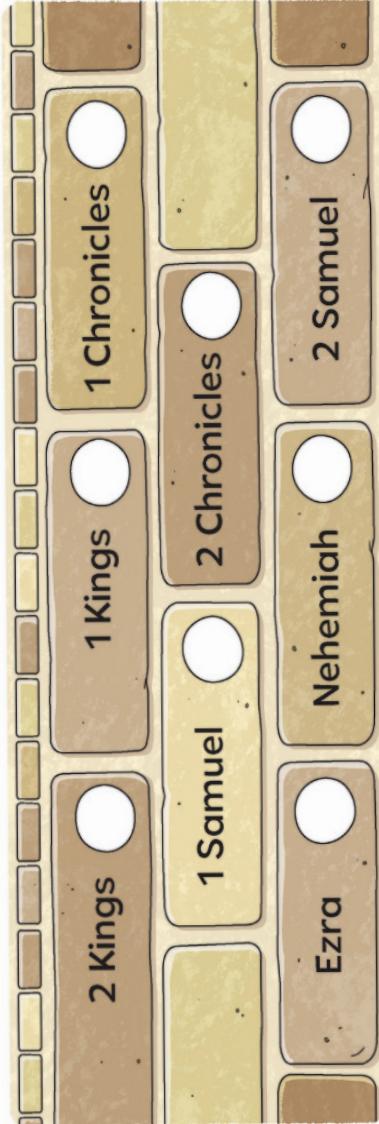
Read Nehemiah 6:15-16

- ▶ How many days did it take to rebuild the walls?

- ▶ Why were the enemies afraid?

- ▶ Nehemiah and God's people showed great faith and trust in God even though the enemies kept trying to stop them. Tell about a time you or someone in your family showed great trust in God, maybe even against an enemy.

Wall of Books | The book of Nehemiah is part of the History division of the Old Testament. Use your Bible's Table of Contents to number the books in the correct order, 1–8.



Cross It Out | Sanballat and Tobiah told lies about the people of God as they tried to rebuild the wall. Cross out every statement that is false.

Nehemiah was sad because Jerusalem was in trouble.

King Artaxerxes did not let Nehemiah go to Jerusalem.

Nehemiah encouraged God's people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

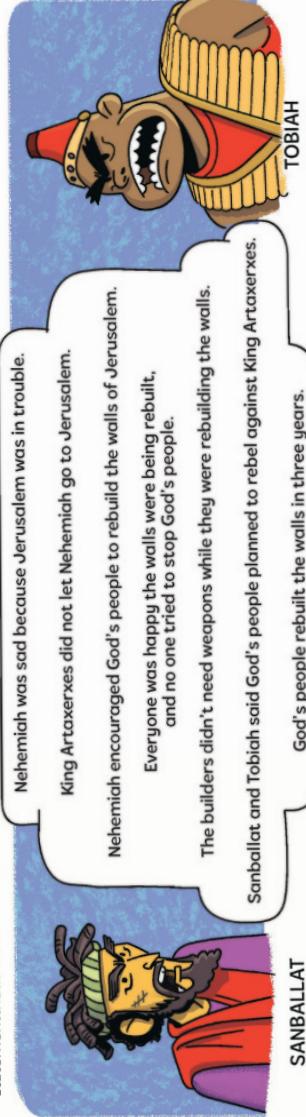
Everyone was happy the walls were being rebuilt, and no one tried to stop God's people.

The builders didn't need weapons while they were rebuilding the walls.

Sanballat and Tobiah said God's people planned to rebel against King Artaxerxes.

SANBALLAT

TOBIAH



UNIT 18: HOPE TO COME

Session 2: Ezra Read the Law



Sunday, February 8

What is the
Bible about?

The Bible is the story of
God's plan to save people
through Jesus.

Memory Verse: John 20:31

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."



Before you read...

- ▶ God's people have finally returned to Jerusalem! They have rebuilt the temple and the walls of the city. Now it is time for them to return to following God's laws.
- ▶ Ezra was a prophet. Bible scholars believe he wrote four books of the Bible: 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah.
- ▶ Today we are going to read a little bit about Ezra.



LOOK at Ezra 7:1-5. READ Ezra 7:6-10

- ▶ Verses 1-5 tell the genealogy or family line of Ezra. Who is the last man, the chief priest they mention in verse 5? (Extra credit if you know who this guy's brother is!)

- ▶ What does verse 10 say Ezra was devoted to?

- ▶ In verse 6 and verse 9, it says, "for the hand of God was on him." These verses are talking about Ezra. What do you think it means that 'the hand of God' was on Ezra?

Tuesday,
February 10

SESSION 2



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we learned that Ezra was in the family of Aaron, God's first priest. We also learned that Ezra was devoted to studying and teaching the Law of the Lord. And, that God's hand was on him.
- ▶ Today we are going to read the very end of a letter King Artaxerxes of Persia gave to Ezra. The king was not one of God's people, but he allowed Ezra to go back to Jerusalem to lead God's people.



Read Ezra 7:25-28

- ▶ What did the king instruct Ezra to do in verse 25? _____

- ▶ Whose laws did King Artaxerxes want the people to keep? _____

- ▶ God and King Artaxerxes gave power to Ezra. Who do you think Ezra trusted more for his power and strength? _____



Before you read...

- ▶ This week we have learned that Ezra was devoted to God's Law and that he was appointed to teach it to God's people.
- ▶ Today we will read about a time when Ezra did exactly that.



Read Nehemiah 8:1-3

- ▶ In verse 2, who does it say was listening to Ezra read the law?

- ▶ In verse 3, how long does it say Ezra read the law?

- ▶ From daybreak until noon would be about 6 or hours!! It says all the people listened carefully for that whole time! Do you think you could listen to someone read the Bible for 6 hours straight? Do you think your parents could listen to someone read the Bible for 6 hours straight?

Thursday,
February 12

SESSION 2



Before you read...

- ▶ When Ezra started reading and teaching the Law of God to the people, he discovered that God's people had not been following God's law at all.
- ▶ One law God gave His people was to not marry the people from Babylon. They were only supposed to marry Israelites. But the people did not follow God's law.
- ▶ Ezra was very sad that the people did not follow this law. He even tore his clothes and pulled out some of his hair. But then he prayed to God and that is what we will read today.



Read Ezra 9:6-9

- ▶ In verse 6, how does Ezra feel about the people's sin?

- ▶ But, what does Ezra say God has shown them in verse 8?

- ▶ Ezra confessed the sins of the people to God. Have you ever confessed your sin to God? Was it easy to do?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read Ezra's prayer of confession for the sins of God's people.
- ▶ Today we will read how God's people reacted to Ezra's prayer.



Read Ezra 10:1-2

- ▶ How many people were around Ezra when he prayed?

- ▶ What did the people do?

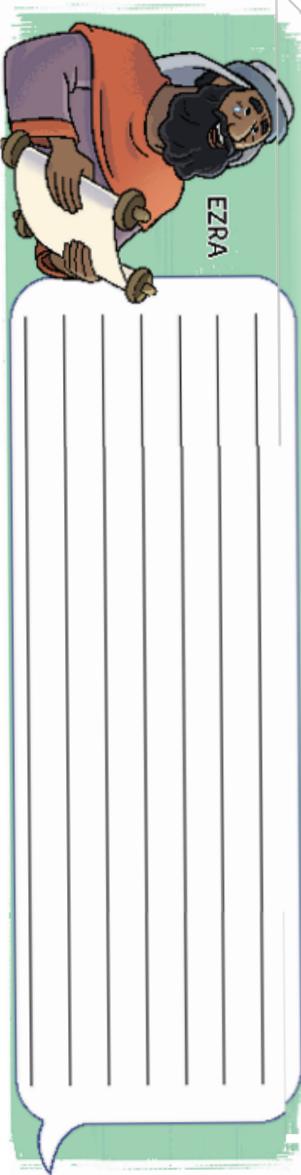
- ▶ How did God's people feel about their sin? BUT, what does verse 2 say there still is for Israel?

Understand It | Ezra read the law, and the people understood it.
Read each verse and then match it to the picture that best illustrates it.



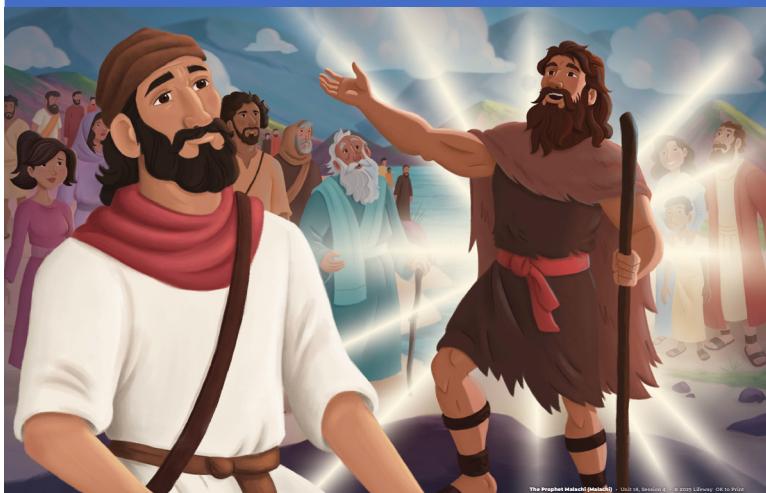
Psalm 119:16
Matthew 22:39
Ephesians 6:1
Hebrews 10:25

Confess It | When Ezra taught the law, the people recognized their sin and confessed it. Use the space below to write out a prayer to God, thanking Him for making the way for sinners to be forgiven through Jesus.



UNIT 18: HOPE TO COME

Session 4: The Prophet Malachi



Sunday, February 15

What is the
Bible about?

The Bible is the story of
God's plan to save people
through Jesus.

Memory Verse: John 20:31

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

Monday,
February 16

SESSION 4



Before you read...

- ▶ After Nehemiah rebuilt the wall and Ezra read the law, God's people promised to be faithful, but they did not keep their promise.
- ▶ So, God sent one last prophet, Malachi to warn His people to turn from their sin and remember the promised Messiah.
- ▶ Malachi is the last book in the Old Testament. After Malachi there were no more prophets for four hundred years. This was the last message from God to His people as they waited for the promised Messiah.



Read Malachi 1:10-15

- ▶ What kind of sacrifices had God's people been bringing to the temple?

- ▶ Why would God not accept their offerings?

- ▶ Why does God need perfect sacrifices?

Tuesday,
February 17

Before you read...

- ▶ God was not pleased with His people because they were bringing Him injured, crippled, and diseased animals as their sacrifices. God required perfect animals for sacrifices because God is perfect and He can't be near sin.



Read Malachi 2:7-9

- ▶ What should the "lips of the priests" be used for?

- ▶ What were the priests doing instead?

- ▶ Who are some leaders today that should be careful to follow God's commands?

Wednesday,
February 18

SESSION 4



Before you read...

- ▶ God was not pleased with the priests. They had violated the covenant with Levi and had been causing God's people to stumble instead of teaching knowledge and the laws of God.



Read Malachi 3:1-4

- ▶ Who is God going to send?

- ▶ This comes true in the New Testament. Do you know the name of the person who prepared the way for Jesus?

- ▶ Look at verse 3. What will the Lord do when He comes?



Before you read...

- ▶ God said He would send a messenger to prepare the way for the Lord. God fulfilled this prophecy when He sent John the Baptist to tell people about the coming of Jesus!



Read Malachi 3:6-10

- ▶ Why were the descendants of Jacob not destroyed?

- ▶ What will happen if the people return to God?

- ▶ What will God give His people if they return to Him? (verse 10)

Friday,
February 20

SESSION 4



Before you read...

- ▶ God is loving and faithful and He does not change. Therefore, God's people were not destroyed. He continued to give them the opportunity to return to Him.
- ▶ God STILL wants people to turn to Him and believe in Jesus! We all need Jesus to turn our hearts back to God and save us from our sin!



Read Malachi 4:1-3

- ▶ What will happen for the people who revere (or honor) God's name?

- ▶ What does the phrase "sun of righteousness" make you think of?

- ▶ Have you turned from your sin and trusted in Jesus? Who can you tell about Him this week?



What's the Message? | Use the decoder symbols to write the name of the messenger God would send to share about the coming Messiah.

TRUE FALSE

- The people kept their promise to obey God.
- The people doubted God's love for them.
- God was pleased with the sacrifices offered by the priests.
- God warned the people through the prophet Malachi.
- The priests in this story led the people to God.
- God promised to send the Messiah.
- God will judge those who don't do justice.

True or False?

Place a check mark if the statement is true or an X if the statement is false.

After Malachi, the people waited 400 years for a message from God.

UNIT 18: HOPE TO COME

Session 5: The Old Testament Points to Jesus



Sunday, February 22

Why do
Christians
continue to sin?

The Bible is the story of
God's plan to save people
through Jesus.

Memory Verse: John 20:31

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."



Before you read...

- ▶ God spoke to His people through the prophets—men like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Malachi. We saw that Malachi was the last prophet of the Old Testament. Malachi warned the people of their sin and encouraged them to remember the promised Messiah. Then God was silent for four hundred years.
- ▶ This week, we will learn how the time had finally come for God to raise up another prophet to speak to His people again. We'll see that a man named John was sent by God as a witness to the coming Messiah.



Read Luke 1:5-17

(This passage is long, but you can do it!)

- ▶ Who did the angel of the Lord appear to?

- ▶ What did the angel of the Lord tell this person?

- ▶ What would this child do? (verses 16-17)

Tuesday,
February 24

SESSION 5



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read that an angel visited a priest named Zechariah and told him that his wife, Elizabeth would have a baby! The baby was to be named John and he would bring many of the people of Israel back to the Lord their God. We know this baby as John the Baptist.
- ▶ The birth of John the Baptist fulfills God's words in the Old Testament. Both Isaiah and Malachi prophesied about the messenger who would prepare the way for the Messiah. Share how this happened hundreds of years apart, but both prophets received the same true words from God.



Read Luke 1:18-25

- ▶ What is the name of the angel that spoke to Zechariah?

- ▶ What happened to Zechariah when he did not believe the angel?

- ▶ Bonus Extra Credit: What is the name of the place Zechariah was when the angel spoke to him? (Remember our lessons about the tabernacle and the temple and the special room where a priest went in only 1 time a year to burn incense?)



Before you read...

- ▶ Zechariah did not believe the angel Gabriel that he would have a son in his old age. So, Zechariah could not speak until his son was born! What do you think that was like for Zechariah?



Read Luke 1:57-66

- ▶ What did Elizabeth's relatives want her to name the baby?

- ▶ What happened when Zechariah said the baby was to be named John?

- ▶ How do you think the neighbors and family felt when they witnessed this miracle?

Thursday,
February 26

SESSION 5



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that Zechariah could speak again the moment he obeyed God and named his son John. Today, we will read a part of the song Zechariah sang when he first could speak again.



Read Luke 1:67-75

- ▶ What were Zechariah's first words after being silent for so long?

- ▶ What did Zechariah say was coming for God's people?

- ▶ Zechariah mentions 2 big names from the Old Testament. Who are they?



Before you read...

- ▶ Today, we will finish reading Zechariah's song. Remember, God had been speaking through His prophets throughout the whole Old Testament, telling them the Messiah was coming. But God had been silent for 400 years until now. Zechariah's son would be the next prophet!



Read Luke 1:76-80

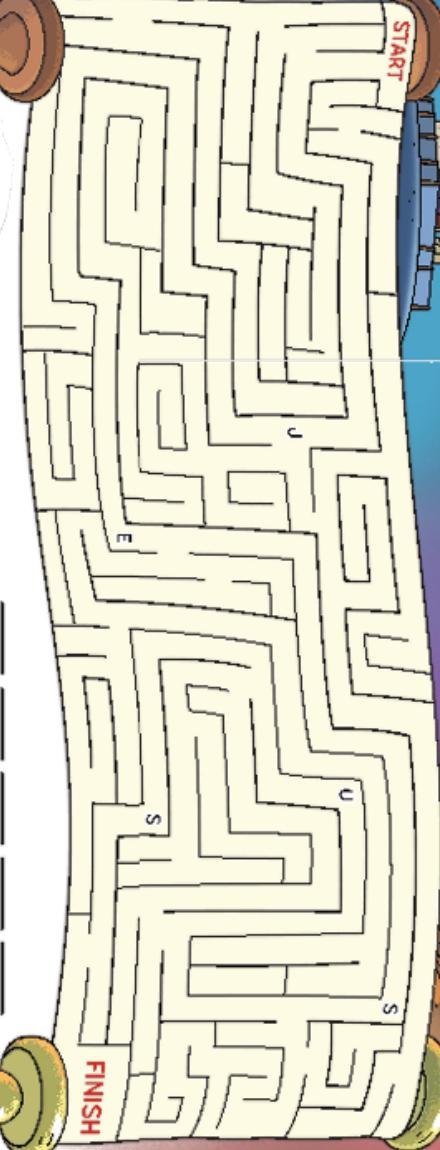
- ▶ What would Zechariah's child be called?

- ▶ What would the child do?

- ▶ John's job was to tell people about Jesus. That is also our job today. What are some ways you can tell others about Jesus?

The A-Maze-ing Truth

Complete the maze and circle each letter as you go to discover who the Old Testament points to.



Who's Who?

Match the description to each correct person from the Bible story. The people can be used more than once.

He was unable to speak because he didn't believe God's words.

He was a witness for Jesus.

He provides salvation.

He went before Jesus to prepare the way.

He lived outside the city in the wilderness.

The wife of Zechariah, and the mother of John the Baptist.

Shared the message that John would be born.

He wrote that the baby's name would be John.

the angel

Elizabeth



Zechariah

John the Baptist

the angel



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