Exile

“Nehemiah”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* The call of the Prophet Jeremiah
* The prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah
* The Story of Nehemiah and Jerusalem’s Walls

Series Theme Verse: “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” – Jeremiah 29:11

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God used prophets like Haggai and Zechariah

to speak to those in exile and look to the future coming of the Messiah.

Lesson Passage: Nehemiah 1:1-2:8 and Nehemiah 4

Materials Needed: Bibles, Giant Jenga, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points: Nehemiah 1:1-2:8

* What is the problem stated in the first three verses? (The walls of Jerusalem are broken down and destroyed)
* Why is this a problem? (No walls leaves Jerusalem prone to attack from enemies)
* What is Nehemiah’s response to hearing the news of Jerusalem’s walls? (He wept and mourned for days, then fasted and prayed)
* What special position did Nehemiah have? (Cupbearer to the King)
* How does Nehemiah use his special position to help Jerusalem? (He gets permission from the King to go back to Jerusalem and use the King’s resources to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem)
* Did the King grant Nehemiah’s request? (Yes)

Talking Points: Nehemiah 4

* Sanballat and the enemies of Jerusalem did not like the news that the walls of Jerusalem were being rebuilt. How did they respond? (Anger and mocking)
* How did Nehemiah and the people of Jerusalem respond to their enemies? (They continued their work and repair of the walls)
* This angered their enemies even more, so what did their enemies do in response to the continued repairs? (They planned to attack Jerusalem and stop the work)
* How did Nehemiah lead the people to respond to this new threat? (They prayed and worked, but this time with their weapons at hand and with some guarding the holes in the walls while others repaired the holes)
* Were the people of Jerusalem successful in rebuilding the walls? (Yes)

The Story Retold:

* Reinforce with students that the plans of Nehemiah were successful only because of his reliance on God.
* When we are faced with problems in our lives, we must turn to God, seek God’s guidance, and rely on one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.
* For a fun way of thinking about walls and working together, divide into two teams and have the teams compete against each other in Giant Jenga.

The Story and Me:

* Have the theme verse on a poster board.
* Have students create motions for each word in the verse.
* Say the verse as a group a couple times using the motions.
* Ask students what this verse means to them personally, you might need to get the conversation started by saying what it means to you in your faith life.

**Zechariah in the New Testament**

