

Ezra and Nehemiah

✓ True-False

Look at the underlined word to determine if the statement is true or false. If the statement is true, write *true* in the blank. If the statement is false, write *false* in the blank.

- false 1. King Darius sent the Jews to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. (*Cyrus*)
- true 2. The priest who was sent to Jerusalem to teach God's Word after the Temple was rebuilt was Ezra.
- true 3. The Jews stopped to celebrate and praise the Lord when the foundation for the Temple was completed.
- false 4. The king's cupbearer and trusted servant was Tobiah. (*Nehemiah*)
- false 5. When their enemies mocked them, Nehemiah and the Jews quit. (*worked*)
- true 6. When the wall was completed, Ezra read the law of God as the people listened attentively.

Discuss: Explain why the false answers are incorrect statements.



Short Answer

Read each question carefully, and write your answer in the blank.

1. Before traveling to Jerusalem and beginning the work, what did both Ezra and Nehemiah do?
They prayed.
2. Why do you think they prayed before doing anything else?
Answers vary. They knew it was going to be a hard job, and they needed God's help.
3. Can you think of others in the Bible who prayed before making a decision?
Answers vary. Daniel, Moses, etc.



4. What were some of the things that the Jews' enemies did to try to stop the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem?

Answers vary but could include the following: mocked or made fun of the wall builders, tried to discourage the Jews by threatening to attack them, pretended to be friends with the Jews so they could trick them, lied to and about the Jews.

5. There was great joy and excitement when the walls of Jerusalem were finished. In Nehemiah 8:10, Nehemiah told the people to celebrate and ended by saying, "for the joy of the Lord is your strength." When David faced difficult situations, the Bible says in 1 Samuel 30:6, "but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God." When the difficult times come, how could you encourage yourself?

Answers vary. Reading the Bible, singing songs about God, praising or thanking God, etc.

You may want to have the class sing a chorus or two as time permits.

6. Can you think of others in the Bible who faced trouble while trying to do what was right? What did he do when people tried to stop him?

Answers vary. Noah was told to build the ark. The people laughed and made fun of him.

This could have discouraged him, but Noah kept on building until the ark was completed.

When David faced Goliath, his brother became angry and accused David of being prideful.

7. Write the name of someone you know who is working for the Lord and describe what he does.

Answers vary. Pastor, missionary, Sunday school teacher, mom, dad, etc.

8. What can you do to help or encourage the person you named?

Answers vary. Pray for him, write a note, ask if there is a job you can do, etc.

Discussion/Application

Use these questions to prompt discussion about life applications from lessons.

1. One of the ways the Samaritans tried to stop the building of the Temple was to accuse the Jews of things that were not true. Have you ever been accused of something you did not do? Have you ever accused someone of something without having all the facts? Maybe you saw just a little bit of something and jumped to a wrong conclusion. Maybe you just repeated something you heard without finding out the entire story. We must be very careful what we say about others. How could you keep from jumping to the wrong conclusion or repeating incorrect information?
See answer below.
2. When Ezra arrived in Jerusalem, he found out that the Jews who rebuilt the Temple were living just as the people around them—people who did not know or love God. How did Ezra react when he heard this news? What did the Jews do when they saw Ezra’s reaction?
3. The Jews were influenced by the people around them. They became like them. We become like the people we spend time with. Do your friends help you do right? What kind of friend are you? How could you be a good friend to someone else? *Answers vary. Keep a right attitude, encourage them to obey, listen carefully in Sunday school or church, etc.*
4. What do you think Nehemiah meant when he said, “The people had a mind to work”? *Answers vary. They continued their work until the job was done. They worked even when things were difficult. They helped each other build.*
5. In what area do you need to have “a mind to work”?
Answers vary. Being attentive in class, diligent in homework, faithful in chores, etc.
6. What was your favorite part from Ezra and Nehemiah and what did you learn from it? *Answers vary.*

over

1. *Answers vary. Go to an adult and tell them just what you saw or heard. Do not add or subtract anything from what you actually saw or heard. Do not repeat things about others, especially something that is unkind. Give someone else a chance to speak or explain. Treat others the way you would want to be treated.*
2. *Ezra prayed, confessed the sins of the people, asked for forgiveness, and wept. The people wept and prayed also.*

Something to Think About

When the people began to rebuild the Temple and later the walls of Jerusalem, it was hard work. They had to first lay a good foundation. Once the foundation was laid, large stones had to be gathered and placed on the wall to make it tall and strong. The last step was to hang the gates around the city. All of this was done so the people would have a place to worship and be protected from their enemies. If you have trusted Christ as your Savior, you have a solid foundation to build your life upon.

Walls of Protection

What are some things that will help you build up walls of protection in your life? Write your answers in the stones below.

Answers vary. Read the Bible, memorize Bible verses, pray, obey, attend church, etc.

A grid of 20 hand-drawn stone shapes arranged in 5 rows and 4 columns, intended for writing answers.