

God Answered His Prayer

Instructions: Do this activity in a quiet place. As you read the scriptures, imagine that you are actually watching the events. Picture the scene. Hear the voices. Feel the emotions of the characters. Let the account come to life.

Main characters: Nehemiah, King Artaxerxes, Sanballat, and Tobiah

Summary: Nehemiah prays to God, asks the king for permission to travel to Jerusalem, and overcomes obstacles.

1 THINK ABOUT THE SCENE.—READ NEHEMIAH 2:1-20.

How do you picture the appearance of these characters in the account?

Nehemiah: _____

King Artaxerxes: _____

Sanballat and Tobiah: _____

Why, do you think, was Nehemiah's prayer short? _____

Describe the appearance of Jerusalem, as you imagine it, when Nehemiah arrived there. (*Reread verses 13 and 14.*)

What tone of voice do you imagine as Nehemiah spoke in verse 17?

2 DIG DEEPER.

What do you think Nehemiah prayed about? (Read Nehemiah 1:4-11.)

Why might Nehemiah have concluded that Artaxerxes would allow him to return to Jerusalem? (Read Ezra 7:1-6; Proverbs 21:1.)

How did the Jews 'strengthen their hands for the good work'? (Read Nehemiah 2:18; Isaiah 35:3.)

What impresses you about Nehemiah's reply to Sanballat and Tobiah? (Read Nehemiah 2:20.)

3 APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED.

Write down what you learned about . . .

The power of prayer. _____

How Jehovah God helps his worshippers when they courageously speak up. _____

4 ASK YOURSELF:

If I am upset or feel gloomy, how can I imitate Nehemiah?

When others challenge my beliefs, how will I show that I trust Jehovah?

What lesson from this account is most important to me, and why?

Suggestion: Using research materials available to you, locate the ancient cities of Shushan and Jerusalem on a map. (Nehemiah 1:1) Calculate the approximate distance between these two cities, and then imagine how difficult it would be for you—like Nehemiah—to travel the same distance from your home, but without modern transportation.

