

BIG IDEA: God's places us exactly where we need to be.
BIBLE BASIS: Book of Nehemiah
KEY VERSE: "When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy." Psalm 94:19

THE BIG BIBLE STORY- NEHEMIAH THE CUP-BEARER

Watch the Preschool video: <https://youtu.be/zC30R5Rlj5g>

Watch the Elementary video: <https://youtu.be/omyEm1LmlQE?t=13>

A couple of weeks ago we learned about Nehemiah. Do you remember what Nehemiah's job was? He was a cup-bearer. A cup-bearer is a person who is trustworthy. The cup bearer drinks the king's wine before he does to make sure he isn't going to be poisoned. Nehemiah shows us that we are all placed in the exact places God wants us to be. Nehemiah was a cup-bearer and God would use his position to enable him to help rebuild Jerusalem. Believers are God's workmanship created for good works (Ephesians 2:10). The class you are in, the family you are in, the sport team you are on etc. is exactly where God has placed you for you to be able to serve Him and do the work He has created you for.

In chapter 2 Nehemiah is at work for the king as his cup-bearer. **Read Nehemiah 2:1-3.** The king could tell Nehemiah was very anxious about something. Nehemiah couldn't hide how broken his heart was for the condition of God's holy city Jerusalem. The king asked what Nehemiah wanted and he prayed to God. Do you think that this means that right there in the presence of the king Nehemiah got on his knees and began to pray to God? It does not say exactly, but most likely Nehemiah prayed in his heart for God to help him know what to say and ask the king. God answered Nehemiah's prayer and enabled him to know exactly what to ask the king for. Nehemiah asked the king:

- To return to Jerusalem to rebuild it. (2:5)
- For letters that would provide him safety as he travelled to Jerusalem. (2:7)
- A letter for his friend Asaph asking for wood from the king's forest to build the walls and gates and for a place for him to stay while doing the work. (2:8)

Because Nehemiah had prayed and asked God for help, God gave him wisdom to know what to ask for and he was able to see God's gracious hand on his life through the king's response to help him. Not only did the king allow him to have letters for the governors throughout the land who would protect him as he traveled, but the king also sent army officers and cavalry along with him. Nehemiah shows us that prayer enables believers to see that God answers by giving wisdom to know what to ask for and see His provision and His hand of blessing in our lives.

Let's read Nehemiah 2:10. These men were enemies of God's people. Who is the true enemy who fights against God and His work? (Satan) Satan is bothered when God's people are doing His work because it causes others to see God and His power. People turn from sin and turn to Jesus and that interferes with the enemy's work at ruining people's lives. Nehemiah's story teaches believers that when you are busy about doing God's work, The Lord will help you do something amazing! Parents, pray to God asking Him to do amazing things through your child and through you!

BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers:

- What was your favorite part of the story?
- Why do you think Nehemiah was nervous to approach the King?
- How did God answer Nehemiah's prayer?

For Elementary:

- What was your favorite part of this story?
- How do you think the story would have turned out if Nehemiah would have never prayed to God?
- How can God use you exactly where you are?

BIG BIBLE STORY ACTIVITIES

Prayer Station prompt: Write a prayer to God and tell Him how thankful you are that he placed you where you are at.

Journal Station prompt: Have you ever been nervous to ask someone for help? Write a letter to God and tell Him about it.

Bible Station prompt: Read it for yourself: Nehemiah 2. Draw a picture of the story or write to God your favorite part of the story. Tell Him why you like it.

Art Station prompt: Nehemiah showed a lot of courage when he approached the king with his request. We can show courage too! Draw a picture of yourself as a superhero being brave.