



10

God's Word Proclaimed



Key Passages

- Nehemiah 8:2, 8:5–6

Lesson Focus

- God's Word is very special.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Nehemiah Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 9 and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will hear how Ezra taught from God's special Word, and the people worshipped the Lord.

Song—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Amen! Tunnel Run

Students will run under the sheet tunnel, replying to the statement, "God's Word is very special," with a shout of "Amen, Amen!"



Activity 2: Circle God's Word

Students will find the pictures of the Bibles on their worksheet and circle each one. Then they will color the pictures.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or after you individually.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



COME ON IN

- Print one Nehemiah Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- Nehemiah Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- Print the Lesson Illustration for use during class.
- Optional: Bring in a sturdy chair or stepstool for you to stand on and imitate Ezra while you read.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Lesson Illustration
- Optional: Sturdy chair or stepstool



AMEN! TUNNEL RUN

- Gather sheets and blankets.

- Queen size sheet and/or blanket
- Optional: extra sheets or blankets
- Optional: chairs and tables



CIRCLE GOD'S WORD

- Print one Circle God's Word Worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Circle God's Word Worksheet for each student
- Crayons



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- Print and cut out one each of the six Follow the Leader Cards.
- Attach cards to chairs and tables around the room.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Six Follow the Leader Cards attached to chairs and tables around the room
- Tape



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks
- Student Take Home Sheets



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

In our last lesson, we learned about Nehemiah's return to Jerusalem under King Artaxerxes. Nehemiah succeeded in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem under the guiding hand of God, and he continued as the governor over Jerusalem and the surrounding area for 12 years until he returned to Persia in 442 BC (Nehemiah 13:6). During Nehemiah's time as governor, he was zealous to help the people return to a right view of God and to obey Him and worship Him rightly.

Ezra, who led the second return to Jerusalem, was still alive in Jerusalem during this time. As we heard earlier, Ezra was a priest and scribe who had studied God's Law extensively (Ezra 7:10). His desire was to teach the Law in Israel, but his efforts must have fallen short. He had trained some men in the Law, but the people as a whole were still ignorant of what God required of them.

In order that the Law could be taught to the people, a platform was built and the people assembled in Jerusalem to learn. Ezra read from the Book of the Law of Moses to all the people assembled from morning until noon (Nehemiah 8:1–6). As Ezra opened the scrolls, he blessed God, and the people bowed in reverence to their God. Many teachers shared in the responsibility of explaining what the words recorded meant for the people.

Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people stood in their place. So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading. (Nehemiah 8:7–8)

Notice what these teachers did—they helped the people understand what was written and gave them the sense of the text. This had always been the responsibility of the priests and elders of Israel, but it had been neglected for so long that nobody even knew what God expected of them. These teachers took the words recorded by Moses and broke them down to explain what they meant. With this help, the people were able to recognize their sinfulness and how they fell short of what God required of them. They wept and mourned over their sin (Nehemiah 8:9).

But as the day was “holy to the Lord your God” (8:9), Nehemiah, Ezra, and the other leaders encouraged them to praise God and be thankful for all that God had done for them. They had so much to be thankful for. “Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength” (8:10). The people were able to rejoice in their understanding of the words of God and the knowledge that He rewards obedience and pardons sin. That was reason to celebrate.

After this initial teaching event, the people found in the Law that they were to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, and so they celebrated in booths for the first time since the days of Joshua. The Jews continued to respond positively to the teaching of God's Law. Similar to Isaiah's proclamation (Isaiah 55:10–13), the word of the Lord was going out and accomplishing what He sent it for—to bring change to the hearts of those who hear the truth.

As the people learned more from the teaching of the Law, they continued to have a repentant attitude and to focus themselves on the right worship of God (Nehemiah 9:1–3). In response to God, the priests and teachers overflowed in a glorious tribute to God and all that He had done for the Jews in the past. In a sense, they were giving a history lesson through a poem proclaimed aloud to the people. The people repented, and God was glorified through the proclamation of His Word by the teachers who honored Him. All of this was sealed with an oath to walk in God's Law and to observe all of the commands that they now understood (Nehemiah 10:28–29).

By way of application, it is so important for us to study God's Word so that we know what He desires of us and commands us to do. Jesus said, “Have you not read . . . ?” in many different situations to remind the false teachers in Israel that what is set forth in the Scriptures, the Old Testament at that time, is the authority. It is the authority because it has come from God and, as His creatures, we must submit to His authority. Part of that submission is to study what God has said so that we can understand what God expects of us.

As you teach this lesson, you have the opportunity to proclaim the truths of God's Word, as Ezra did, and then explain the meaning to your students, as the other teachers did. This is both a great opportunity and a great responsibility. God has established teachers within the church and given the gifts of the Spirit to build up the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11–16). As you teach this lesson, remind your students that while God does want us to obey His commands, Jesus Christ

has already fulfilled those commands perfectly and His righteousness can be credited to our account. Recognizing sin is the first step toward repentance and celebrating the forgiveness that God offers through Jesus Christ. Proclaim that truth and help those listening to understand how God would have them respond.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Since the beginning of the world, God has called His creatures to obey His commands. In the garden, Adam and Eve were to tend to the plants and avoid eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They failed to keep that command and introduced sin into the world. Since that time, God has revealed His commands to the people of the earth. However, there is a clear pattern—people constantly fail to obey God’s commands. That disobedience is rooted in the sin nature that passed to all mankind from Adam.

But to those who have received the forgiveness available through Christ for sins, past and present, there is no condemnation for disobedience and no fear of punishment (Romans 8:1–4; 1 John 4:16–18). Christ has paid the penalty for those sins in full. Now unshackled from our old natures, we are free to obey Him and keep His commandments. Many people, Christian or not, misunderstand this idea and think that Christians must be constantly obeying to earn God’s favor. But Christ has earned God’s favor for us, and we now have the joy of serving Him and obeying His commands in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:8–10). We can surely block our fellowship

with God through disobedience and grieve His Spirit, but His love for us remains, and as we turn to Him in repentance, that fellowship is restored.

One mark of a true Christian is to be obeying the commands of Christ (1 John 2:1–6). As Jesus was giving His disciples final instructions before He ascended to heaven, He called them to make disciples, teaching them to obey His commands (Matthew 28:18–20). As Christians continue in the work of making disciples, we must continue to teach the commands of Christ. But if we don’t know what those commands are, we can’t teach them to others. We must be diligent to study God’s Word so that the blind are not leading the blind and that we are able to fulfill Christ’s call to make disciples.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord, I join with the Israelites in saying “Amen! Amen!” Your Word is living and powerful. It is a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart. You speak to me through your Word each time I open its delicate pages and read. Your Words are a comfort and strength to me in times of trial. How precious are the times you bring them to my mind in joy and in sorrow. Please move in the hearts of my students to treasure your Word, study it, and memorize it, too.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Nehemiah Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 9.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, Lesson Illustration, sturdy chair or stepstool, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson. See the Lesson Preparation chart for details (page 2).

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Adoration is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of adoration—and tell God how much we love Him.

I'll start. Dear God, you are great and good. I love you so much because . . .
(insert personal prayer).

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God how much they love Him.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Is there more than one true God?** *No. There is only one living and true God.*
- ? **Where can we learn about the one true God?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible.*
- ? **What does the one true God know?** *The one true God knows everything!*
- ? **Who should we trust and obey?** *The one true God!*
- ? **Who alone should we worship?** *The one true God!*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

Bible Pass Around

➤ Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number* *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* **We'll start right here.** *Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin.* *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

➤ When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

God was doing some special things in the city of Jerusalem in the land of Judah! *Refer to Lesson 5 Flip Chart Page.* God led Zerubbabel to lead the Jews home after they were away for 70 years! The Temple of God had been destroyed. And God wanted Zerubbabel to rebuild it. When it was finished, the people had a place to worship God again. *Refer to Lesson 8 Flip Chart Page.* Then God used Ezra in a special way. He led more people home

to Jerusalem. Ezra found that the people in Jerusalem had turned away from God and were sinning against God. Ezra taught the people God's Law, and the people turned back to God. *Refer to Lesson 9 Flip Chart.* And then there was Nehemiah! He lived in Persia but heard that the walls of Jerusalem were destroyed. Nehemiah came back to Jerusalem, and God used him to lead the people and rebuild the city wall!

Show Lesson Illustration. Ezra and Nehemiah were in Jerusalem at the same time. They knew each other! While Nehemiah was working to rebuild the walls, Ezra was busy teaching the people about God's Law.

We know that Ezra loved God very much. He knew that God's Word was very special and that the people needed to obey it. God used Ezra to teach the people these things. The Bible says that the people gathered together and told Ezra to go and get God's Law. They wanted to hear it and learn from it.

That's what we are going to read about today. Ezra, the people, and God's special Word! We're going to look in the Bible and find out what Ezra did. We are going to read from the book of Nehemiah. Let's get started. *Open the Bible to the book of Nehemiah. Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

Now, listen carefully so you can tell me what Ezra did. *Read Nehemiah 8:2 emphasizing "the Law."*

- ? What did Ezra the priest bring? *The Law.*
- ? That's right. And where do we find God's Law today? *Hold up Bible. God's Word. The Bible.*

Yes. God's Law is found in God's Word. The people wanted to hear God's Word—and Ezra was going to read it to them. Now, let's keep reading and see what happened next. *Read Nehemiah 8:5.*

- ? What did Ezra open? *The book with God's Law.*
- ? Who was there with Ezra? *All the people.*
- ? Where was Ezra standing? *Re-read Nehemiah 8:5. Above the people.*
- ? And what did the people do when Ezra started to read? *Nehemiah 8:5. Stood up.*

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. Take a look at our Flip Chart. See Ezra? He was standing up above the people. The Bible says they built a platform of wood for him to stand on. That way, the people could see and hear him as he read God's Word.

And because God's Word is very special, when Ezra started to read, they all stood up. Let's stand up like they did while I read the next verse. All of you stand up. *You may want to step up onto a sturdy chair or stepstool—a platform—while*

➤ As you present the Lesson Illustration, get up and walk around the circle showing the picture to your students.

Nehemiah 8:2

Nehemiah 8:5

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

Nehemiah 8:6

you read the next verse. I'll climb up here on this chair. Remember, Ezra was up higher than the people so the people could see and hear him better.

Ok, now listen as I read the next verse. *Read Nehemiah 8:6 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

- ? Who did Ezra bless? *The Lord, the great God.*
- ? What did the people answer? *Re-read Nehemiah 8:6. "Amen, Amen!"*
- ? What did they do while they answered? *Re-read Nehemiah 8:6. Lifted up their hands, bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord.*

Now I'm going to read it again, and I want you to do what I do as I read this. OK? Everyone stand up! Ready? *Re-read Nehemiah 8:6.*

Lead the students to act this out as you describe the scene. All the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" They lifted their hands, bowed their heads, and worshipped God!

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. God's Word is very special. The people knew that. They wanted to hear it and learn from it. This was a holy day because the people listened carefully to God's Word and understood what it said. They worshipped and prayed to God when they heard His Word. God's Word is very special.

- ? Is God's Word STILL very special? *Yes.*

Yes, it is. Our Bible today is the same Word that they heard from Ezra. God's Word is still very special. We should respect God's Word and listen to it just like the people of Ezra's day did. We need to read it, memorize it, and learn it.

It tells us who God is. And it tells us about Jesus. God's Word tells us that God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. God's Word is special because it tells us that if we believe in Jesus, God's Son, and trust in Him, we can be forgiven of our sins and live with Him forever.

God's Word is very special. Shout, "Amen, Amen!" with me again. *Lift your hands and shout once more together.*

SONG

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Part of learning God's Word is memorizing it. So let's practice our memory verse. Sing it with me. Here we go! Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times with enthusiasm!

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. The people worshipped God with praises. Let's worship Him, too. Stand up and sing "God Wants Me to Worship Him." Sing together once or twice with hand motions.

Let's sing the song we learned last week about Nehemiah. Nehemiah was obedient to God, and God used him to build the wall! Stand and sing "Build the Wall."

Repeat the songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.



Amen! Tunnel Run

MATERIALS

- Queen size sheet and/or blanket
- Optional: extra sheets or blankets
- Optional: chairs and tables

INSTRUCTIONS

You and an assistant hold up the edges of the sheet to form a tunnel. Allow the students to run through one at a time. Bring the sheet down loosely over them to "catch" them. Then say, "God's Word is very special!" They should shout, "Amen, Amen!" Lift the sheet so they can run through and continue around in a circle to get in line and run through again. Continue randomly "catching" students as time allows.

You may also want to set up two rows of chairs or tables to lengthen the tunnel using another large sheet, blanket, or cloth.

Remember how the people in our lesson worshipped God? Ezra blessed the Lord, and the people lifted up their hands and shouted, "Amen, Amen!"

We are going to say those same words while we have some fun going through a tunnel. But this tunnel is tricky. When you go through, we are going to try to catch you! If we do catch you, we'll say, "God's Word is very special." And you must answer, "Amen, Amen!" When you say the right answer, we'll let you go. Then you can go around and get in line to run through again.

Let's practice. "God's Word is very special!" Now you say, "Amen, Amen!" Practice this together.

Okay, let's line up and get ready. Play the game.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God's Word is very special. The people were excited to hear God's Word so they could understand what it said and learn more about God. When Ezra read from God's Word, he blessed the Lord, and the people answered, "Amen, Amen!"



Circle God's Word

MATERIALS

- Circle God's Word Worksheet for each student
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Give one copy of the Circle God's Word Worksheet to each student. Have students find and circle all of the Bibles on the worksheet.

God gives us all kinds of great things, doesn't He? But the best thing we could ever ask for is the Bible because it's God's

Word. God's Word is very special because it tells us about who God is. Look at all the things on your worksheet. I want you to find all of the Bibles—God's Word—and put a circle around each one. Then we'll color the pictures!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God gave us His Word so we can read it and learn about Him. God gives us many wonderful things, but God's Word is very special.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the Lord; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them . . .

MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Six Follow the Leader Cards attached to chairs and tables around the room
- Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut apart one copy of the Follow the Leader Cards. Tape each one to a chair or table and randomly place them around the room. You will lead the students around the room and stop at each card. Read the card and lead the children to do what the card says while reciting the memory verse. Then move around to the next one. You may want to repeat this activity if time allows or have students take turns leading.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say it first. *Point to each picture as you say each*

word and have the students repeat. Practice the verse together using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

Good job! Now we're going to play a follow the leader game. I'm going to lead you around the room, and when we come to a chair or table with a sign on it, we will stop and do what the sign says while we say our verse together. So everyone line up. Follow me!

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Ezra loved God and God's Word. God's Word is special. God wants us to love His Word, too. The Bible says we should memorize His Word and hide it in our hearts. God's Word in our hearts will help us to obey Him and not sin.



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.

God led His people back to Judah. He led them to build the Temple, rebuild the walls, and start learning His Law again so they could obey Him. God used Ezra to teach God's Laws to the people in Judah. Ezra stood high above the people. The people stood up and listened. They wanted to hear about God from His Word. They worshipped God and answered, "Amen! Amen!" *Hold up your Bible.* God's Word is true. It is special because it is from God Himself.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

We've been talking about how special God's Word is. It's important to respect it, read it, listen to it, and learn from it. We can learn about who God is—our Creator and Savior. God's Word tells us that we are sinners. AND it tells us that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die for us so we can be forgiven of our sins. God gave us His Word so we can trust Him and have forgiveness through Jesus Christ. That's why God's Word is so very special. I hope that you will grow up to love God and His Word, and read it every day!

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His special Word.
- Praise God for giving us Bibles to read.
- Pray that God will give us hearts to read, memorize, and learn from God's Word every day.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

NEHEMIAH 9:6

(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Shout, "Nehemiah 9:6!"

You alo-one,

(Are you sleeping?)

Are the Lo-ord;

(Are you sleeping?)

You-have-made heav'n,

(Brother John,)

The heav'n of heavens,

(Brother John.)

With a-all their-eir ho-ost,

(Morning bells are ringing.)

The earth and ev'rything on it,

(Morning bells are ringing.)

The-seas and all—

(Ding, ding, dong,)

That-is in them.

(Ding, ding, dong.)

GOD WANTS ME TO WORSHIP HIM!

(To the tune of "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes")

Lift up your hands then lower them when singing the words "worship Him."

God wants me to worship Him,

(This is the way we wash our clothes,)

Worship Him,

(Wash our clothes,)

Worship Him.

(Wash our clothes.)

God wants me to worship Him,

(This is the way we wash our clothes,)

Worship Him alone!

(Early Monday morning.)

Look up and point up when singing the words "obey Him."

God wants me to obey Him,

Obey Him,

Obey Him.

God wants me to obey Him,

To obey Him alone!

BUILD THE WALL

(To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

God said, "Build the wall."

(Row, row, row your boat,)

"Hurry, don't delay!"

(Gently down the stream.)

Nehemiah traveled home.

(Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily.)

He wanted to obey.

(Life is but a dream.)

"Build, build, build the wall."

The people heard him say.

Praying, trusting, working, serving—

God must be obeyed.

Think of fun ways to sing. For example, get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.