LESSON 19

NEHEMIAH BEFORE THE GREAT KING



Aim: **To show the children how God answered Nehemiah's prayer.**

Scripture Reading: **Nehemiah 1:1-11; 2:1-9**

Memory Verse: **Exodus 20:13**
(the Ten Commandments)
"You shall not murder."

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

Have you ever tried to keep news to yourself? If it's good news you have to be careful not to show happiness on your face or in the way you behave. Bad news is far more difficult to keep to yourself.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Nehemiah had some very bad news. He was a Jew who trusted in God. He was a slave in Babylon, some time after Daniel. News was brought to Nehemiah that Jerusalem, the capital city of his ancestors, was lying in ruins, and people who lived there were experiencing great trouble (Neh 1:1-3).
2. Nehemiah took his sadness to God and prayed. He worshipped God and reminded God of his promises to Israel. He confessed the sins of his people, who had turned their backs on God. Finally he asked God to help him get assistance from the powerful King Artaxerxes. Nehemiah prayed like this for several months (1:4-11).
3. Nehemiah was a trusted servant of that foreign king. His job was to taste the king's wine before he drank it, in case it was poisoned. No-one was allowed to look sad in the king's presence. **Show Picture 19 and describe how Nehemiah approached the king (2:1-4a).**
4. Nehemiah silently prayed to God before he answered King Artaxerxes's question. He was ready with his request for permission to go to Jerusalem and for building supplies. During the time he had spent in prayer beforehand, Nehemiah had made good plans. God then answered Nehemiah's prayers, and Artaxerxes granted his requests. He also sent soldiers along to protect Nehemiah on his journey (2:4b-9).

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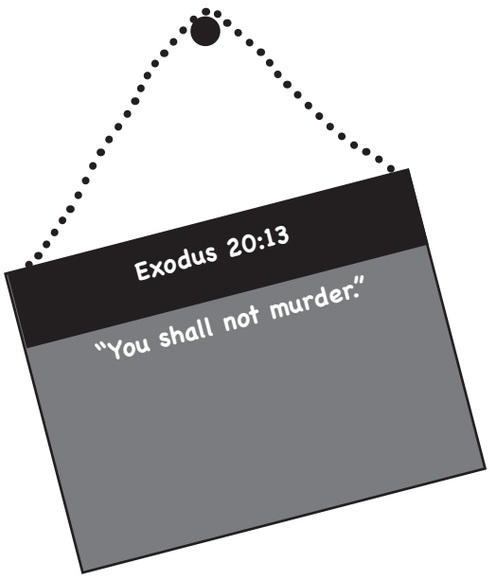
Our Response to the Story

Some of you are probably six years old. This is how long a group of American Christians have been praying for the Sandawe people in America to hear God's Word. God answered their prayers – and a small church has been planted there. One of the first to believe was a middle-aged man. He called at the missionary's house and pulled out two little Christian tracts that he had been reading for a month. He said, "I have stayed with these little books for two months and I've read them and read them. I've talked with my wife about them. Now I've come here to be saved." **(Source: AIM International.)**

God heard and answered Nehemiah's prayer. God still hears and answers prayers.

Instil the Memory Verse

Recite all the commandments learnt so far.



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