# LESSON 21

# REBUILDING JERUSALEM'S WALLS



**Aim:** **To show the children how God blessed Nehemiah and the people of Jerusalem, so that the city walls were rebuilt in spite of many difficulties.**

**Scripture Reading:** **Nehemiah 3:1-5, 12, 31-32; 4:1-23; 6:14, 15-16**

**Memory Verse:** **Exodus 20:15**
**(the Ten Commandments)**
**"You shall not steal."**

## Presenting the Lesson

### Starting Point

**Ask two of the children to help you. There is no need to practise beforehand. Give both of them two pieces of string, which they have to tie together in front of the class. BUT one of the volunteers must use only one hand.** The children will see it's much easier to do this using two hands instead of only one. Perhaps the one-handed volunteer will have to use another part of his or her body to take the place of the other hand!

### Main Points of the Lesson

1. Nehemiah had a difficult job to do. **Briefly review Lesson 20, using Pictures 19 & 20.**
2. First, Nehemiah had to organise everyone to take part in the building project. Different families were given different parts of the wall to rebuild. Everyone helped, merchants as well as priests and ordinary people, but there were a few leaders who could have been more cooperative (Neh 3:1-5, 12, 31-32). The wall began to go up.
3. The Jews' enemies came to laugh at their wall. It was so weak a fox could knock it down, they mocked. If someone laughs at you when you are struggling to do something, you want to hit out at them. **Perhaps the class laughed at the one who had to tie the string with one hand. If they did, use it as an example.** Instead, Nehemiah concentrated on the job and prayed that God would judge the Jews' enemies. The enormous wall was halfway done (4:1-6).
4. The enemies did not give up. They plotted to attack the builders, so Nehemiah arranged that only half the people would build the wall. The other half stood guard. The builders used only one hand, they held a weapon in the other. Nehemiah kept a person with a trumpet by him to sound the alarm, if necessary. **Show Picture 21.** The wall continued to rise (4:7-20).
5. Everyone worked from dawn until nightfall. Nehemiah and some of the others didn't even change their clothes (4:21-23). Their enemies also tried to murder Nehemiah, but their plots failed (6:1-4).



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6. With God's help the city's wall was completely rebuilt in the record time of 52 days (6:15-16)!
7. There was a great celebration when the wall was dedicated. Everyone marched along the wall (12:27, 43).

## Our Response to the Story

This is a most exciting story to tell. It would be a good one for the class to act.

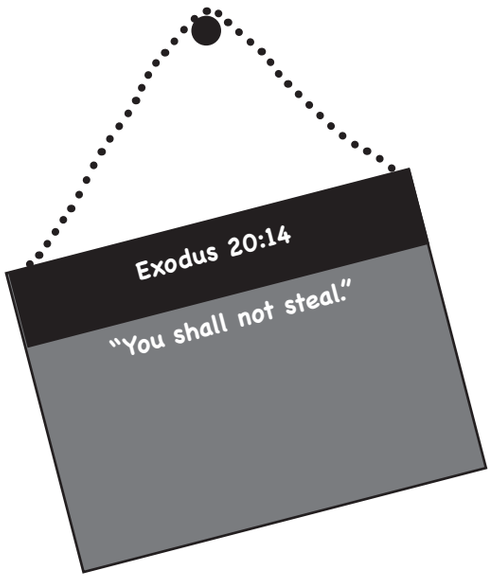
**Scene 1: One group of children build the wall while others walk by and laugh at their efforts.**

**Scene 2: Half of the workers stand guard, watching the other half build the wall using only one hand.**

**Add more scenes, depending on the time at your disposal.**

**Last scene: Finish with everyone walking around in a circle representing the wall, while they sing a song of praise to God.**

**Share some examples from your own life or the lives of others about overcoming difficulties today with God's help. Let the children contribute if they want to. Think back to the testimonies you shared at the end of Lesson 20.**




## Instil the Memory Verse

**Review all the verses of Exodus 20 learnt so far.**



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