



PARENT STUDY

Individually this week, spend time reading
Chapter 21 of *The Story*
or Ezra 7 and Nehemiah 1, 4 and 8.

As you study, pray that God shows you things that encourage,
challenge, enlighten, and spur you to a stronger faith in Him.

BY YOURSELF...

Use these simple questions and prompts to help you ponder and prepare to discuss this week's chapter with your family.

1. **Ezra's example seemed to inspire those around them to seek forgiveness and come back to the Lord. Who are those people in your life that inspire you to be closer to God?**
Challenge for this week: Let them know you look up to them...
2. **While the Jews were building the wall, plenty of those around them tried to block their progress. What are ways that you 'push through' when you believe God wants you to do something, but many around you feel it's a foolish pursuit?**
3. **What is something else from this story that stuck out to me? How can I share that with my family as we seek to grow as disciples?**



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FAMILY STUDY

This Week

Use the following resource to engage with God as a family.

**Read THE STORY Chapter 21: *Rebuilding the Walls*
in *The Story for Little Ones/Children/Kids***

Do Together: *Nehemiah was brilliant in getting all of God's people to work together in rebuilding Jerusalem's wall. Before that, the Jews had languished in their attempts to protect and rebuild Jerusalem. King Cyrus first allowed God's people to return to Jerusalem in 560 B.C. Then the second temple was completed in 516 B.C., but for 70 years the city was vulnerable to attack. But when Nehemiah showed up in 445 B.C., it took just less than two months to secure the walls and give God's people a safe place to live. In all, it took 115 years for God's people to rebuild and fortify Jerusalem.*

Have your family pretend to be raiders on Jerusalem by playing a classic "breakout" video game. You can go to www.silvergames.com/game/break-it/ or go to Google and search for "Breakout games." See which family member is best at breaking down the walls. Let everybody take a couple of turns and then give a prize to whoever scores the highest.

Talk About

- * When the walls around Jerusalem were complete, the people celebrated. Ezra, the priest, read God's law to them from sunrise to noon (Nehemiah 8:3). Why do you think he did that?
- * What's the longest you've ever listened to somebody talk about God? What do you remember the most?
- * Why do you think Nehemiah was so sure of God's power?

Pray Together: *Lord, help us to remember that you are on our side, and that you proved it by sending Jesus to die and rise for us. Fill us with your Spirit, and lead us to your Word. AMEN.*

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