

"Our friends who went back to Jerusalem are in great trouble," they replied; "the walls of the city are broken down, and the gates burned with fire." Let us hear what Nehemiah did when he heard this sad news, v. 4.

*Nehemiah's Prayer*—Nehemiah made up his mind that he would get leave from the king to go on a visit to Jerusalem, to see if he could help the people in their trouble. He prays for them. He tells God all about it, and asks God to help him to get leave from his royal master, the king of Persia, to go to Jerusalem.

*Prayer Answered*—Ch. 2 tells us how God answered his prayer. Tell the story briefly. Ch. 3 tells how Nehemiah got the people all started to build the walls of Jerusalem. Each one did his share of the work, some more, some less, till the work is finished, and we see Jerusalem with a wall around it once more (outline). All this was done because of Nehemiah's PRAYER.

*Our Helper*—God helped him in his work. Is it not nice to know that we always have a Helper who will listen to every word we say to Him, who is ready to give us all the help we need. Impress the thought that nothing is too small for Him to notice. We may take all our little troubles to Jesus in prayer.

Tell a story of a child who prayed and received help. We need never be afraid that God will not hear us when we pray. For He loves us more than even our father or mother.

*Golden Text*—Explain words and repeat. Nehemiah was a righteous man, a RIGHT-DOER. He sought to know and do God's holy will in all things.

*Right-doers*—If we expect God to answer our prayers, we must be right-doers. We must love Jesus and ask all things for Jesus' sake. You know we sometimes say, "Oh, mother, please do this just for my sake." So Jesus says to God, His Father, "Oh, Father, do what my friends ask for My sake."

"In the sunshine of His love

We are living day by day,

And He says our prayers are heard,

When to Him in faith we pray."

*Prayer*—Repeat (with clasped hands and bowed head)—

"Now the time has come to part—

Dear Jesus come to every heart,

Go Thou with us as we go,

And be near in all we do. Amen."

*Something to Draw at Home*—Draw a wall, and remember that God ANSWERED Nehemiah's prayer.

*Something to Remember*—God answers my prayers.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S BLACKBOARD REVIEW

## NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER PLAN

Try to leave a definite impression of Nehemiah's character on the minds of the scholars. Picture him a young man, rich, of good descent, holding a position of great influence at the Persian Court, and, best of all, a true and faithful servant of God. Then ask for the Lesson Title, and print NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER. Question about how this prayer came to be offered. Make as life-like as possible the coming of the messengers from Judah, the sad condition of affairs in Jerusalem described by them, and Nehemiah's grief. How he loved his nation! Touch the points in the prayer, its description of God, its confession of sin, its confidence in God's promise, its eagerness to be of help. This brings us to Nehemiah's PLAN. (Print). Describe his purpose of getting help from the king to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Impress the need of prayer, and the duty of doing our best. When we do our part God will never fail to do His.