

duties of the walls in holding in spite of to give up they also an hold to because we ears must rtant part e may use how each ngthening he enemy del of the

walk into city streets have been and woods

we teach the coun- a wall so t, and its

f the wall picture of re named. This is the sus Christ many times gates, fol- ing touch, ry to hear

around the s of years stumbling or we have all broken exposed to While we ne one who et him be-

notice that his plan. e must ex- y all their

Investiga- ving com- t the chil- ah will do ication by service in

whatever Nehemiah gives them to do will save the city and protect the homes of the people.

Let a good deal of suggestion come from the children as to the necessity for division of labor. Here is a man with a trumpet. What must he do? He must stand close beside Nehemiah to give the alarm, "The enemy is upon us." Why not all have trumpets? Here are spies and sentinels. Their share in the work is —. Here are men carrying tools and keeping swords at hand. There are men in the rear of the ruins who do nothing but watch and wait, fully armed. Why do they not work? All have to be ready to work or watch night or day. All must take turns in going to sleep.

Nehemiah is faithfully served by those who work, those who watch, and those who only stand and wait. We show how much Nehemiah needs this faithful service by speaking of treachery within the walls, and the jeers of the enemy outside. More than one call comes to Nehemiah to leave the work for a time and attend to what seems like very important business. Nehemiah is sure only of one thing, and that is the Lord has given him this rebuilding work to direct, and important business must wait till the walls are finished.

How do you think Nehemiah felt when these seemingly important business calls turned out to be frauds and tricks planned by the enemy to move him from his post, and when he saw the walls daily growing wider and stronger?

Let the children suggest that when we are set to work or to watch or to wait it is easy to see good reasons why we might be needed somewhere else. Let the suggestion come from the class that the man who refuses to leave his God-given task, whatever comes, is by far the strongest on the field. We leave Eph. 6, 13 as watchwords with the class.

LESSON VIII. (November 19.)

PUBLIC READING OF THE SCRIPTURES. Neh. 8, 1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT. "The ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law." Neh. 8, 3.

Primary Notes.



Introductory. After review, drill on title and Golden Text. Hold up a Bible. What is this book? The word of God. Sometimes we call it the Scriptures. That means writings. Writings would be useless unless read or heard. This is a precept lesson, and the teaching

is, "Hear the word of the Lord." [Write on ladder.] We are to learn to-day about a great meeting outdoors to read and hear the word of God. But the chance for this peaceful meeting did not come without more trouble. Nehemiah's enemies could not let him alone, and tried five times to get him to leave his work and talk with them, or to hide himself for fear of them, but he said, "I am doing a great work, and cannot come down." So he refused to talk with them, and when they tried to frighten him he trusted God the more and worked the harder. In fifty-two days the wall was finished. When the enemies and heathen all about heard this they "were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God."

You see, the best way to keep out of trouble with those who want to frighten us and make us do wrong is to be so busy with the work our Father wants us to do that we won't have time to talk with those who wish to tempt us and hurt us.

So now we come to the great Bible reading.

Ezra read. The good priest was a scribe, or writer and copyist too, as well as a priest. He stood on a pulpit of wood, which had been made on purpose, and many good men stood on each side of him. The people were all gathered in a street by one of the gates of the city, and there, when they earnestly asked it, Ezra, whose name means "help," brought out the law of God. It was not all that we have now. Only part of the Bible had been written then, but they had all of the law that Moses wrote in the first five books of the Bible. So Ezra stood up in the sight of all the people, for he was above them all on this pulpit of wood, and opened the holy book, and all the people stood up. When he blessed the great God they all said "Amen, amen," and lifted up their hands and bowed their heads to show how they worshiped God. There were wise men, too, who helped the people to understand what was read. Everything was read so that it could be heard and understood, no mumbling of words and skipping over hard places. It was the best sort of reading.

The people listened attentively. It was God's word to them. They wanted to know what God the Lord would speak. How could they hear without listening? And the true way to listen is with attention—that is, with an earnest wish to hear, letting nothing call away the mind, not allowing other things to come in.

"Ned," called mamma, and Ned heard, for he said, "Yes, mamma," and went on pasting his kite. Mamma talked on, giving him an errand to do; but though Ned heard her voice, he did not pay attention, and when she stopped knew nothing