

# Nehemiah 6:1-16

## “Just Say NO!”

**Scripture:** Nehemiah 6:1-16

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 4:4b *“He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”*

**Lesson Focus:** This chapter chronicles the final showdown between Nehemiah doing God’s work and the bad guys opposing it. We will emphasize how Nehemiah “just said NO!” and won the battle through faith in God. We will encourage the kids to do the same in their battle against temptation and sin.

**Activities and Crafts:** Nehemiah Wall Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: Wall Puzzle Craft

**Starter Activity:** Yes/No Questions

Consider getting the lesson started by throwing out several fun questions that can be answered with a simple yes/no. Instead of just having the kids merely say yes or no, incorporate fun ways of indicating yes/no. For example, thumbs-up/thumbs-down. Or create a Yes corner and a No corner in the room and have the kids move to each section based on their answer. Below are some sample questions but feel free to bring your own!

Q: Is your favorite color green?

Q: Are you afraid of spiders? \*

Q: Have you ever stayed up past 2AM?

Q: Have you ever eaten dog food?

Q: Would you ever drink milk straight from a cow?

Q: Would you ever put juice in your cereal?

**Teachers:** For these next few “Can you” Qs, consider having kids who answer Yes demonstrate that they actually CAN do it!

Q: Can you stand on your head?

Q: Can you juggle three balls?

Q: Can you touch your tongue to your nose?

Q: Are we currently studying the book of Nehemiah at RMC?

That’s right! And we are going to continue today in **Nehemiah 6**. We took a little break as we celebrated Easter, but now we’re back and let’s review:

Q: What did God put Nehemiah in charge of? A: Rebuilding the city of Jerusalem!

Q: Did Nehemiah have anyone try to stop him from building the wall? A: Yes!

They are back and let’s see what they are going to do now and how Nehemiah responds!

## Bible Study:

**Nehemiah 6:1-2:** The wall is almost rebuilt! But these “bad guys” aren’t willing to give up. First, they mocked and ridiculed Nehemiah and the people hoping that would stop them. Next, they threatened to attack the city and the workers. But remember that Nehemiah prepared the people for battle and the bad guys chickened out! Now their last resort is to get rid of the leader, Nehemiah, and they resort to secrecy and conspiracy. \*

Q: Do any of you know what a conspiracy is? \*

A: It is a secret plan or scheme to do something wrong or harmful. \*

I’m sure this invitation to meet sounded nice, but Nehemiah had the wisdom to see that he would be walking into a trap!

Q: What do you think the bad guys really wanted? A: I bet it was to get Nehemiah away from the city (where he was safe) so that they could harm him or even kill him. \*

**Nehemiah 6:3:** But Nehemiah had the courage to **JUST SAY NO!** \* **Teachers:** Consider writing this phrase on the white board and having the kids repeat it with you and similarly throughout the lesson as we see other instances where Nehemiah just says “NO” to the bidding of the enemy.

**Nehemiah 6:4:** Notice the persistence of the bad guys!

Q: How many times did Nehemiah “**JUST SAY NO**”? A: Four times! \*

**Nehemiah 6:5:** The bad guys realize Nehemiah is not going to fall for their trap so now they up their game a little bit and send him a letter detailing a different scheme. \*

**Nehemiah 6:6-7:** They were spreading gossip and lies that would smear Nehemiah’s character and reputation. This lie was that Nehemiah was rebuilding the city so that he could be King and lead a revolt. Let’s review what we learned a few weeks ago to help us better understand this.

Q: Who was Nehemiah a cupbearer to before he came to rebuild the city?

A: The King of Persia. Remember the King trusted Nehemiah and sent him to go and rebuild the city. But the King expected him to return afterwards. Now if the King started hearing these rumors (though false) that Nehemiah was leading a rebellion, then Nehemiah would be in **HOT WATER** with the King!

These guys will stop at **NOTHING** to prevent Nehemiah from finishing God’s work of rebuilding the wall. What do you think Nehemiah is going to do?

**Nehemiah 6:8:** Again, he “**JUST SAID NO**”. \*

Q: What was the very first word in his response to them? A: **NO!**

**Nehemiah 6:9:** Nehemiah recognized their evil plot and he also trusted that the king would not believe these lies. But even more importantly, he remembered Who was on His side.

Q: Who is that? A: God! He prays to God and asks Him to help him be strong and not to be afraid! \*

Time is now running out for the bad guys and they make one last move that may be the worst of all: they hire someone on the “inside”.

**Nehemiah 6:10:** Shemaiah was one of Nehemiah’s own people that he trusted in, but Shemaiah was secretly a traitor.

Q: What is a traitor? A: A person who betrays a friend that they trusted in. Shemaiah lies to Nehemiah about a phony murder plot and tries to trick him into a secret meeting.

**Nehemiah 6:11:** Nehemiah senses there is something “fishy” about all of this.

Q: What does he say to Shemaiah? He **JUST SAYS NO!** \*

**Nehemiah 6:12-13:** How painful this must have been for Nehemiah to have been betrayed by one of his own people, someone he would have trusted!

Q: Can you think of any other traitors from the Bible or other stories? A: Judas!

**Nehemiah 6:14:** It was so painful that Nehemiah cries out to God for justice! Nehemiah continues to rely upon God and now look at what happens next:

**Nehemiah 6:15:** The wall is finished! The project is completed! In only 52 days! So now we have seen the bad guys try so many different schemes to try and stop the building of the wall. Did any of them work? No! Why not? Nehemiah tells us in the next verse:

**Nehemiah 6:16:** Because this was God’s project! And when God wants something done, it gets done! Nehemiah gives God the glory! \*

**Key Point:** You and I also have an enemy who wants to trap us. The devil will stop at nothing to get us to disobey God, sin, and live our lives our way instead of God’s way. He might even use people to say, “Try this”, or “Watch this”, or “Come do this with us”.

Q: Who did Nehemiah look to for help every time he was being tempted? A: God!

If Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior, then He lives in you to empower you also to “**JUST SAY NO**” to sin. \* Ask Him to help you **JUST SAY NO**.

**Read 1 John 4:4.** You too can also overcome sin and temptation. But like Nehemiah, trust in God for strength, pray, and **JUST SAY NO** to sin. \*

# Bring It Home

Download at: <https://rmcalvary.org/volunteering/childrens-ministry/family-resources/>

**Lesson Theme: “Just Say No!”**

**Scripture: Nehemiah 6:1-16**

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 4:4b *“He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”*

**Teachers/Parents:** Throughout our lesson we emphasized our theme of “JUST SAY NO!”. If any of you were around in the 80s or 90s, you might remember how this slogan was used as a campaign against drugs in schools and in pop culture. What are some things that we should “JUST SAY NO” to today?

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **Nehemiah 6:1-2**. How do you think Nehemiah knew that they had meant to do him harm?
- 2) The bad guys persist in getting Nehemiah to come out and enter into their trap, but Nehemiah continues to “JUST SAY NO”. Read **Nehemiah 6:9**. What did he do and why is this important?
- 3) Read **Nehemiah 6:15**. How many days did it take them to complete the wall? Does that seem remarkable to you?
- 4) In **Nehemiah 6:16**, notice that the enemies finally gave up! Who does Nehemiah give the credit to for this?
- 5) In class we talked about how we all also have an enemy that would lure us into the trap of sin. Just like Sanballat continually harassed Nehemiah in **Nehemiah 6:4**, our enemy, the devil, will stop at nothing to get us to disobey God and sin. But read our memory verse, **1 John 4:4**. Where does our strength come from to “JUST SAY NO”?
- 6) Sometimes when we are being tempted to sin, we might feel like there is no way out. But read **1 Corinthians 10:13**. Who is the One who provides the way of escape?
- 7) What do you need to “JUST SAY NO” to this week? Seek help from Jesus and from one another for this battle cannot be won on your own!