FAMILY STUDY

From Rubble to Rejoicing!

Nehemiah was a builder. He went from cup bearer to construction engineer because he cared and took action. Nehemiah led the small Israelite community as they rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. It was a daunting task--it is easier to build from scratch than to rebuild from a pile of rubble. He also looked out for their spiritual well-being--demanding that they obey God's laws and thus not fall into the same sins that had led to their captivity in the first place. The wall was rebuilt and the city repopulated then the people held a great celebration with joy and thanksgiving.

Rebuilding and Rejoicing

Objectives:	Practice rebuilding something that has been torn down. Rejoice in the work of God. Gain insight into your own faith. Have fun with your family.
Number of Players:	unlimited
Length:	15 - 30 minutes
Set up:	Arrange for something to be rebuilt--you could use legos, scattered across the floor, child's blocks, chairs with blankets to be made into a walled city in the living room; or, maybe you have an actual construction project you are working on in the house or yard. The object is to get the whole family organized in the activity of rebuilding and to actually accomplish the finished task. Whatever you choose to rebuild, make sure that it looks hard or daunting in the beginning, so that it seems they will never finish. But, make sure that it will be completed so you can celebrate that completion. Choose one person to be Nehemiah. This person should instruct the people in the rebuilding project, they should pitch in and help with the work, and they should also spend time encouraging the workers. "The God of Heaven will prosper us. Therefore His servants will arise and rebuild." "Do not be afraid. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses." "This day is holy to the Lord, do not mourn or weep." "This day is holy to the Lord. Do not sorrow for the joy of the Lord is your strength." After the walls have been built. Have a great celebration. Bring out any instruments you have or improvise with anything you have around the house. Spend time dancing and singing to the Lord. Sing loudly, rejoice loudly that it may be heard near and far.

Discussion: Have everyone sit together and ask, "In the beginning did you think that we would ever finish this project?" "How did the encouragement and the help of Nehemiah boost your confidence?" "How did you feel when the project was finished?" "Let's remember every day to praise and thank the Lord for His great work. Name 2 things that you are thankful for today."

Prayer: Close in prayer thanking God for His provision and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family.