



Mahragan
Alkeraza
2019

ARISE & BUILD

Nehemiah 2:20



“Therefore we His servants will arise and build.”
Nehemiah 2:20

JK- SK
English Edition



ARISE & BUILD



H.H. Pope Tawadros II

Pope of Alexandria &
Patriarch of the See of St. Mark



H.G. Bishop Mina

Bishop of Mississauga,
Vancouver and Western Canada



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INTRODUCTION

Mahragan Alkeraza 2019

As we celebrated the conclusion of last year's Mahragan with the distribution of the trophies for the first, second and third place winners, we were grateful for God's blessings for a successful 2018 Mahragan. His Holiness Pope Tawadros II said during the Awards Ceremony in Egypt, "I am happy to see the activities of the Youth Bishopric, I am glad that our beautiful Church that is 2000 years old is full of young youth and I am proud to see the creative work and achievements of the youth."

Last year, in addition to the usual participation from Egypt and Sudan, we had a great worldwide participation from 192 Churches representing more than 20 countries and 8 languages.

The theme for Mahragan 2019 is "Therefore we His servants will arise and build." (Nehemiah 2:20). This year, God is asking each one of us to grow in Christ. To do this we will learn about the following topics:

1. God Is Essential For Our Life
2. The Secret Of Our Success
3. We Are His Children
4. Arise To Your Joy
5. Let's Build Our Life



We hope that all of you will participate in the Mahragan activities this year, and encourage everyone you know to join us in one of the greatest annual events, presented by our mother, the Coptic Orthodox Church.

May God bless Mahragan Alkeraza this year and the efforts of all the participants and coordinators, through the prayers of our beloved father Pope Tawadros II.

✠
My best wishes for a happy
Festival
✠
Bishop Mousa



God Is Essential For Our Life

The Bosom of the Father



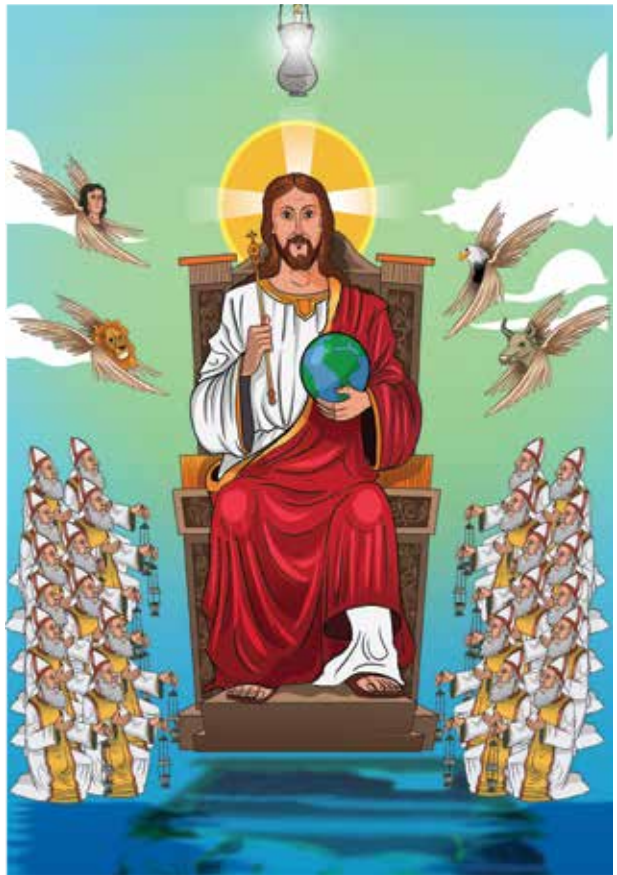
The church is the house of God and every corner in the church makes us feel the presence of God. In the church, we feel safe and secure because our Father is surrounding us.



In the altar inside the church, there is a curved wall towards the East which we call the “Bosom of the Father”. In the Bosom of the Father, we find the icon of our Lord Jesus Christ sitting on His throne. This icon is a painting consecrated with the Myron oil.

In front of it, there is a lamp always lit with oil which represents God’s eyes always watching over us. It also reminds us of the star that led the Magi to the manger where our Lord Jesus Christ was born.

The icon shows our Lord Jesus Christ carrying the globe in His left hand to represent that He is the Pantocrator, the creator of everything and Who is in control of everything. In His other hand, He





holds the rod of the shepherd because He is the Good Shepherd who takes care of us as the verse says:

MEMORY VERSE:

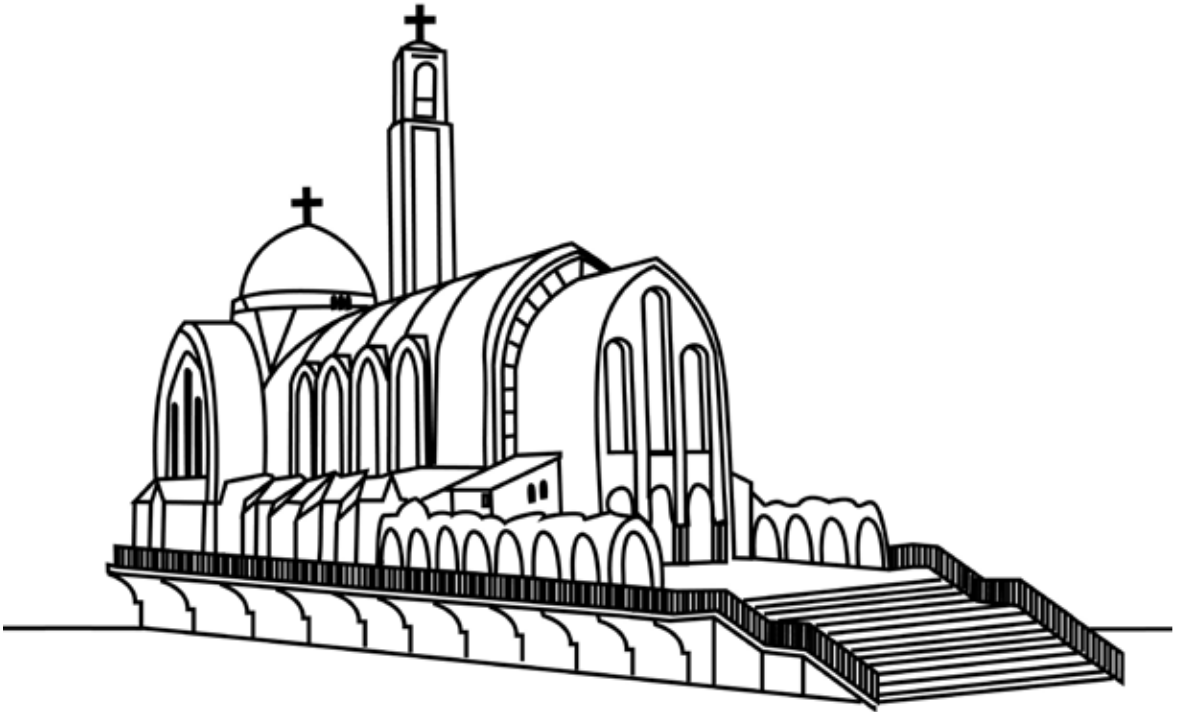
“He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom.” Isaiah 40:11

Since the church is the house of God, we should take care of it and respect it. When we are in church, we feel safe in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. We should remember to pray quietly, without making noise or talking, and praise our Father with beautiful hymns as the angels praise Him in heaven.



St. Mark's Cathedral In Cairo

ACTIVITY





The Secret Of Our Success

The Tabernacle Of Meeting - Exodus 25-35



Long ago, at the time of Moses the prophet, God wanted to tell His people that He is always in their midst. God asked Moses to build a tent called the Tent of meeting or the Tabernacle of meeting. This was to be the house of God where they would gather and pray and it was where God would meet with His



people. It was designed as a tent so that the people may carry it when they were moving from one place to another.

The Tabernacle was the house of God in the Old Testament and the Church is the house of God in the New Testament.



God wanted the Tent to be absolutely spectacular! God told Moses that He had chosen a man named Bezalel and filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge and talent to be in charge of building the Tabernacle. God also assigned another man to help him. God gave Moses the



design of the Tabernacle and told him to ask the people to help with anything they could, no matter how small it is.

Moses gathered the people and invited them to donate for the work of the Tabernacle. He also asked anyone who is talented in any work to come and participate in the building of the Tabernacle.

Everyone contributed. Some donated gold and silver and others worked according to their talents (sewing, carpentering and gold crafting). Women also helped by doing the embroideries. The work was very organized. It was very important that everyone participated however they can for the success of the work. As the verse says:

MEMORY VERSE:

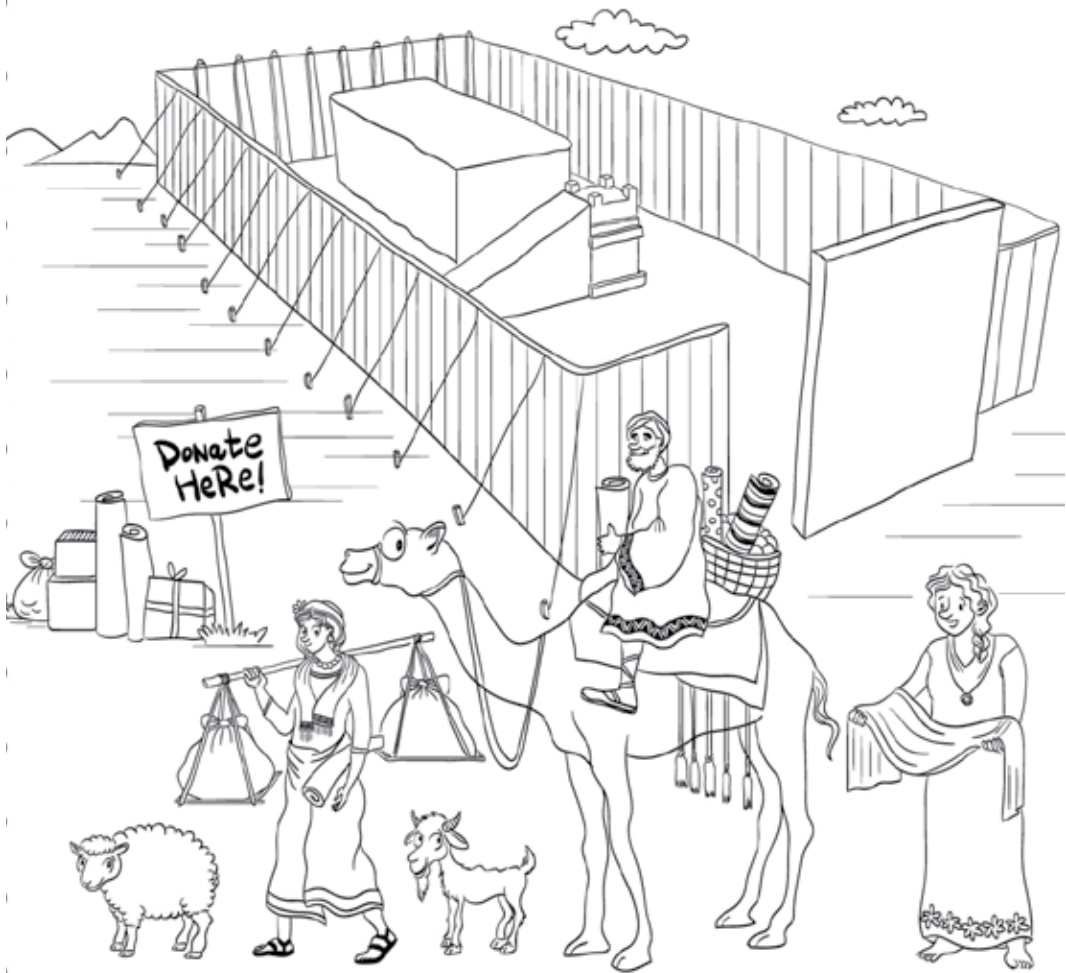
“And whatever he does shall prosper.” Psalm 1:3

Likewise, God gave each one of us a talent. Our role is to find our talent and use it in the right way to serve Him so we can be successful in everything we do.



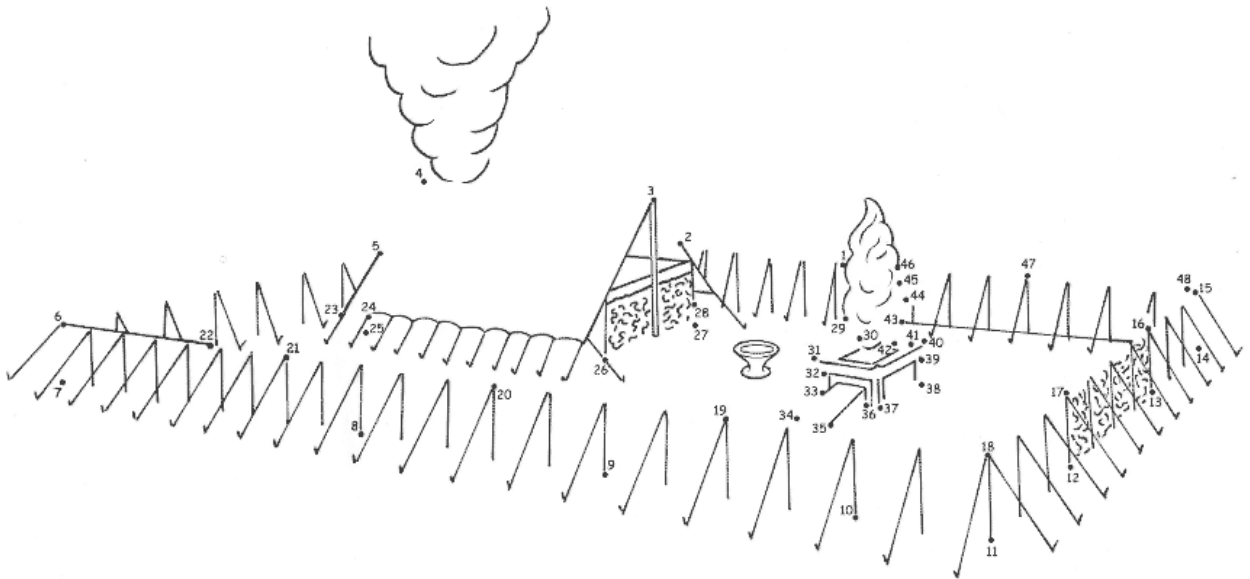
Donating To Build The Tabernacle

ACTIVITY





The Tabernacle





We Are His Children

St. Freig And His Camel Rueiss - Synexarium 21 Babah

A long time ago, in a small village in El-Garbeya, there lived a simple farmer named Isaac with his wife Sarah. They loved God very much. They had a son named Freig and raised him in the fear of God, teaching him to love God from all his heart.



When Freig grew up, he helped his father in the field, and carried salt on his small camel and sold it in the village. He named his camel Rueiss which means “small head”. The camel used to put his head against his cheek as if he was kissing him.



Freig and Rueiss were best friends. Rueiss would always come to Freig when he called him. Rueiss used to cover Freig when he slept



and wake him up to pray if he slept in.

When Freig was 20 years old, he left his house and went from city to city to talk to people about God.

God gave him the gift of performing miracles. When people asked him for his name, he used to reply that his name was Rueiss, the name of his camel, so that people would not know him or thank him but thank God and glorify Him.



He helped many people. One day, a rich woman who had a disease in her eyes, went to him and asked him to help her. He prayed for her for a long time and her eyes were healed. As the verse says:

MEMORY VERSE:

“You also helping together in prayer for us.” 2 Corinthians 1:11



One day, Anba Rueiss became aware that some thieves were planning to steal sheep from one of the shepherds. He quickly went to help him and walked with him on a different road until he reached his destination safely and saved him from the thieves.



He was a man of few words and he didn't have any possessions. He looked like the hermits of the desert, his eyes were red because of weeping and he never cut his hair.



Arise To Your Joy

The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32

There once was a rich man who lived in a big house with his two sons whom he loved very much. One day, the younger son asked his father for his share in the inheritance. The father gave his son his share of the money.



A few days later, the younger son took all his possessions and left his father's house.

He left his father who loved him so much and took care of him and instead went to a far country. There, he spent all his money on bad things until he ran out of money.

Afterwards, there was a famine in the country until there was no food.



The son went to a rich man to find a job, but the only job he could find was to watch the pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pigs' food but no one offered him anything.



He then thought to himself and said: "There are so many servants in my father's house who have leftover food and I am here starving! I can't stay here any longer. I have to go back to my father right away". He finally decided:



MEMORY VERSE:

"I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you." Luke 15:18

The younger son decided to leave all the bad things that he was doing and to go back to apologize to his father.



When he was close to his father's house, he found his father running towards him, because his father was waiting for him to come back. His father hugged him and kissed him and was very happy to see him back.



He told his father: I have sinned... I am sorry.... I was wrong. His father was very happy and he took him back to his house.

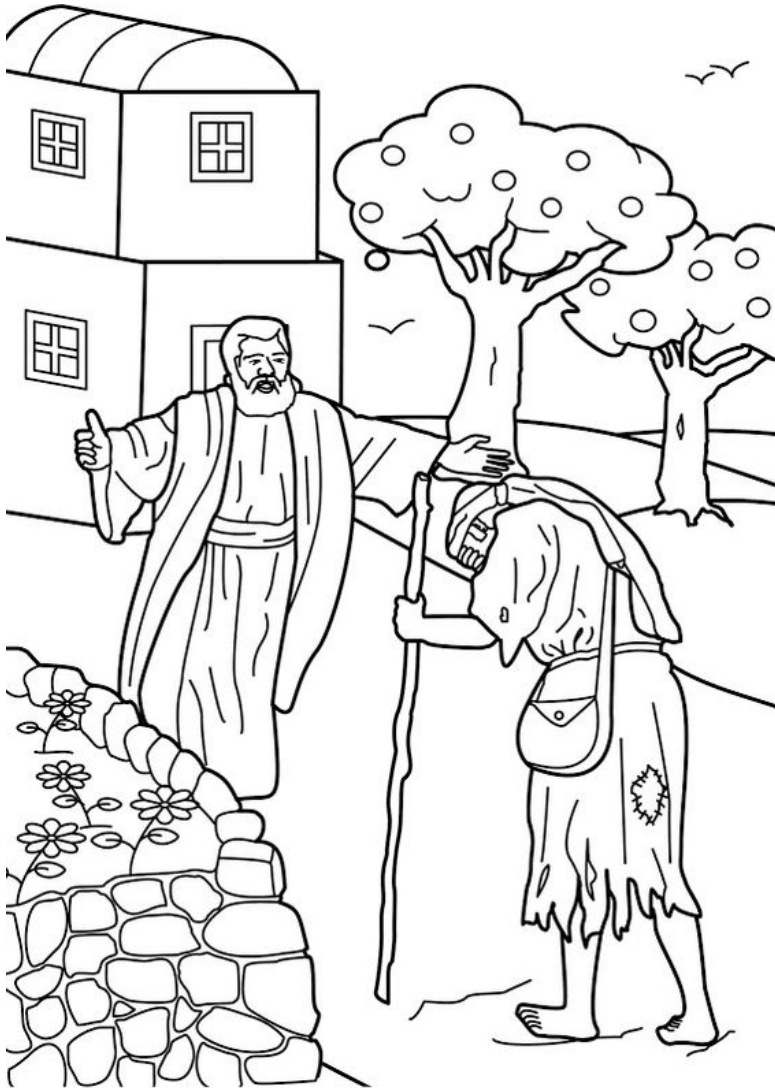
Our Lord Jesus Christ used to tell many stories to the people to explain things in an easy way. We call these stories "parables". This story is one of Jesus' Parables found in the Gospel of St. Luke Chapter 15 and is one of the many parables that our Lord Jesus Christ said. We call it the parable of the "Prodigal Son".

Our Lord Jesus Christ used this Parable to explain to us that He loves us even when we make mistakes because He is our Father. When we do something wrong we should go back to Him quickly and apologize. He will always be waiting for us with open arms to hug and kiss us.



Home At Last

ACTIVITY





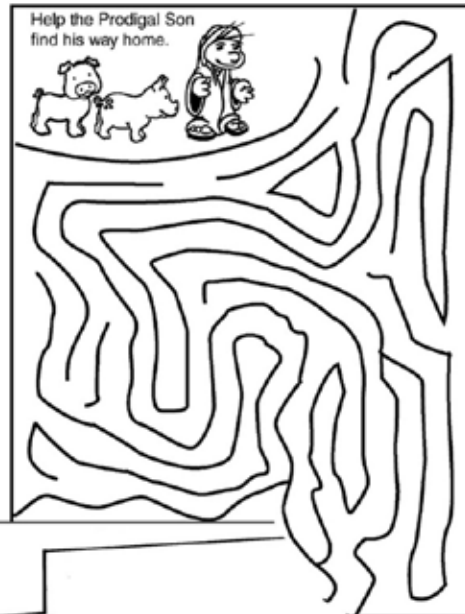
Help The Prodigal Son Find His Way Home

Luke 15:11-32

The Father's House has more than enough.

The Father's Heart is full of compassion.

"For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. (Luke 15:24)





Let's Build Our Life

Nehemiah Builds The Wall - Nehemiah 1-6

Nehemiah was a man from God's people but he was living in a foreign country. He always prayed to God. One day, some people came to him from Jerusalem, his home country. They told him that the Jews who were in Jerusalem had forsaken God and that the wall of Jerusalem was destroyed and its gates had been burnt down.



Nehemiah was very sad. He fasted and prayed and asked for God's help. Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer. He asked the king to give him permission to go back to Jerusalem to build the wall. God gave him grace in front of the king, so the king gave



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him permission to go back to Jerusalem. He also gave him all the supplies that he needed and sent people to help him.

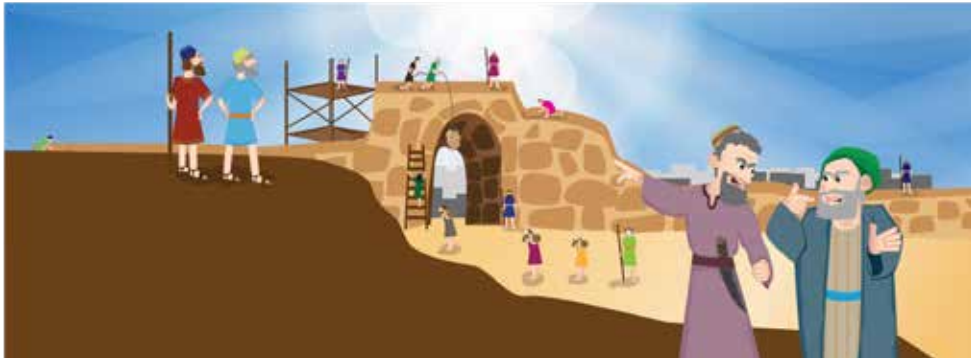
When Nehemiah arrived to Jerusalem, he toured of the city to see its current state. He saw what happened to the city and the walls that were destroyed. He then started to encourage the people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and with God's help, he was able to get all the people to help. They said, "Let us rise up and build."



When they started to build the walls of Jerusalem, people from the surrounding cities were not happy and tried to stop the work. They made fun of Nehemiah and his people and tried to scare them to make them stop the rebuilding of the wall. But Nehemiah trusted God and was confident that God will help him



so he encouraged his people, saying:



MEMORY VERSE:

“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build.” Nehemiah 2:20

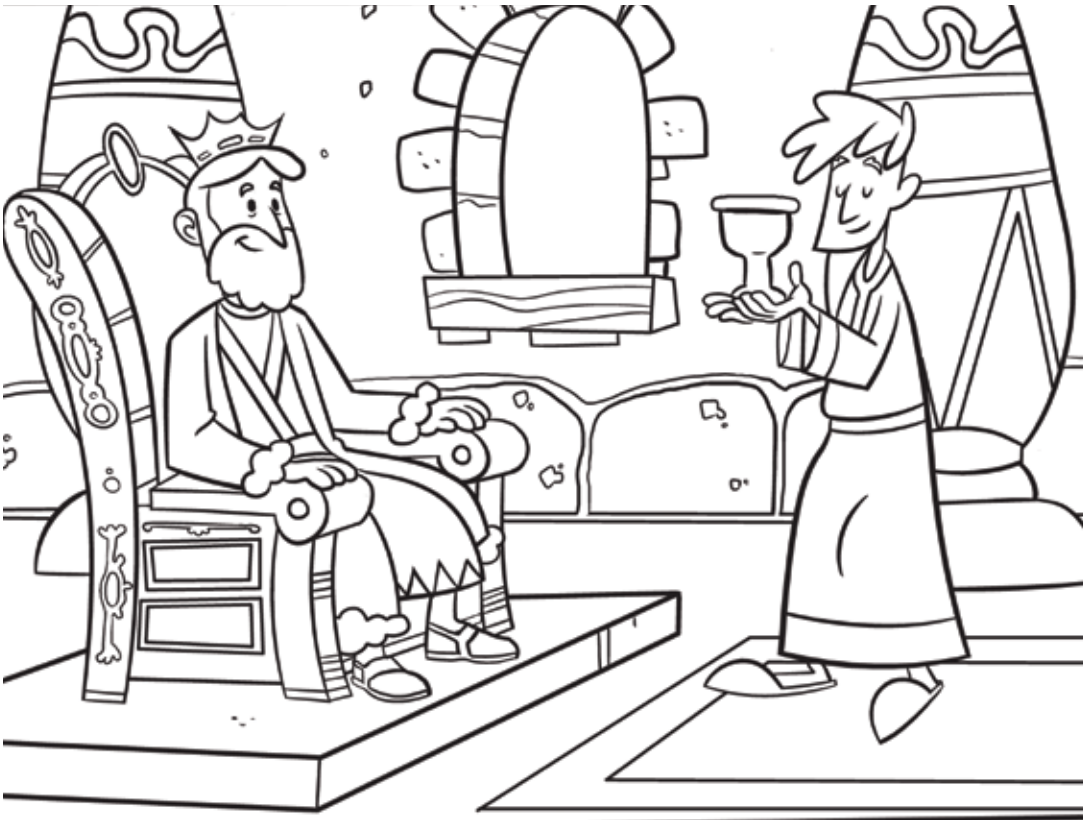
Nehemiah made a plan and organized the construction. He asked the people to each build the part of the wall in front of their house. The people listened to Nehemiah and ignored the words of the people around them who wanted to stop them.

Nehemiah divided the people into two groups. One group worked on the building and the other group guarded them with weapons, protecting the construction against anyone who wanted to hurt them to prevent them from finishing the work. God gave them success and the wall was completed in 52 days.



ACTIVITY

Nehemiah The Cup Bearer



Nehemiah was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, who gave Nehemiah permission to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city's walls. Nehemiah 2



Memorization

BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John
5. Acts
6. Romans
7. 1 Corinthians
8. 2 Corinthians
9. Galatians
10. Ephesians
11. Philippians
12. Colossians
13. 1 Thessalonians
14. 2 Thessalonians
15. 1 Timothy
16. 2 Timothy
17. Titus
18. Philemon
19. Hebrews
20. James
21. 1 Peter
22. 2 Peter
23. 1 John
24. 2 John
25. 3 John
26. Jude
27. Revelation



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