

Lesson 10: The Nation is Rebuild

AIM:

General: 1) To describe the events and major personalities in the story of the return to Jerusalem:

① King Cyrus of Persia defeats the King of Babylon and allows the Jews to return.

② The first group under Zerubbabel returns- the Prophets Haggai and Zechariah with them Haggai exhorts the people to rebuild the temple, (Hag 1 : 1 - 8) Zechariah encourages the people with the promise of the coming of King. (Zech 9:9- 10)

③ A second group returns almost 80 years later under the leadership of Ezra (Ezra 7:6- 10) He devoted himself to reforming the people and teaching them God's word.

④ A third group, under the leadership of Nehemiah, rebuilt the walls of the city. [Neh 1 : 1-11, 2 : 1-8; 4: 1-15, 6:1-5, 16, 12:27, 31]

Personal: To encourage the children to follow Nehemiah's example while doing a job- to keep praying and trusting God and finally on succeeding, to give Him the glory.

STARTER & INPUT: [30 mins]

Divide the class into 4 groups and give each group 1 of the stages in the story of 'The Return'. Ask them to read the references given and practice act t up the section of the story using narration (*they could read directly from the Bible or tell the story in their own words*) and action. (*they are given 10 minutes to prepare, and 1 - 2mins acting time.*)

The groups then come in order and act. Encourage all to pay attention to the other groups/acts as they will be asked to relate the whole story at the end.

After all the - acts are over (and applauded) ask different children to relate the story in bits, make sure you ask them the parts acted by another group.

PRAYER: [10mins]

Let us focus on Nehemiah and the way he worked. What would you say was the secret of his success?

Re-read- Neh 1: 5 - 11; (He turned to God right from the start.)

Re-read Neh 4: 14 - 15; (When he faced opposition and enmity, when the people began to get worried, he encouraged them to trust God.)

Re-read Neh 12: 31; (When he finally succeeded, he gave God the glory for the work that was done.)

So the secret is- Focus on God throughout. Realise you arc just an instrument and He is doing the work. And when the work succeeds give God the glory for it. (*If time permits. share a small experience when God worked in your life when you had a difficult job to do*)

Let's pray... (*Encourage the children to quieten themselves and come into God's presence*)... Bring your life before God... think of any job that you have to do... like Nehemiah, ask God to take charge... maybe you are already lacing some difficulties or enmity... tell God about it, and trust Him to act... give Him thanks even now for what He is doing and going to do, through you .