

NEHEMIAH



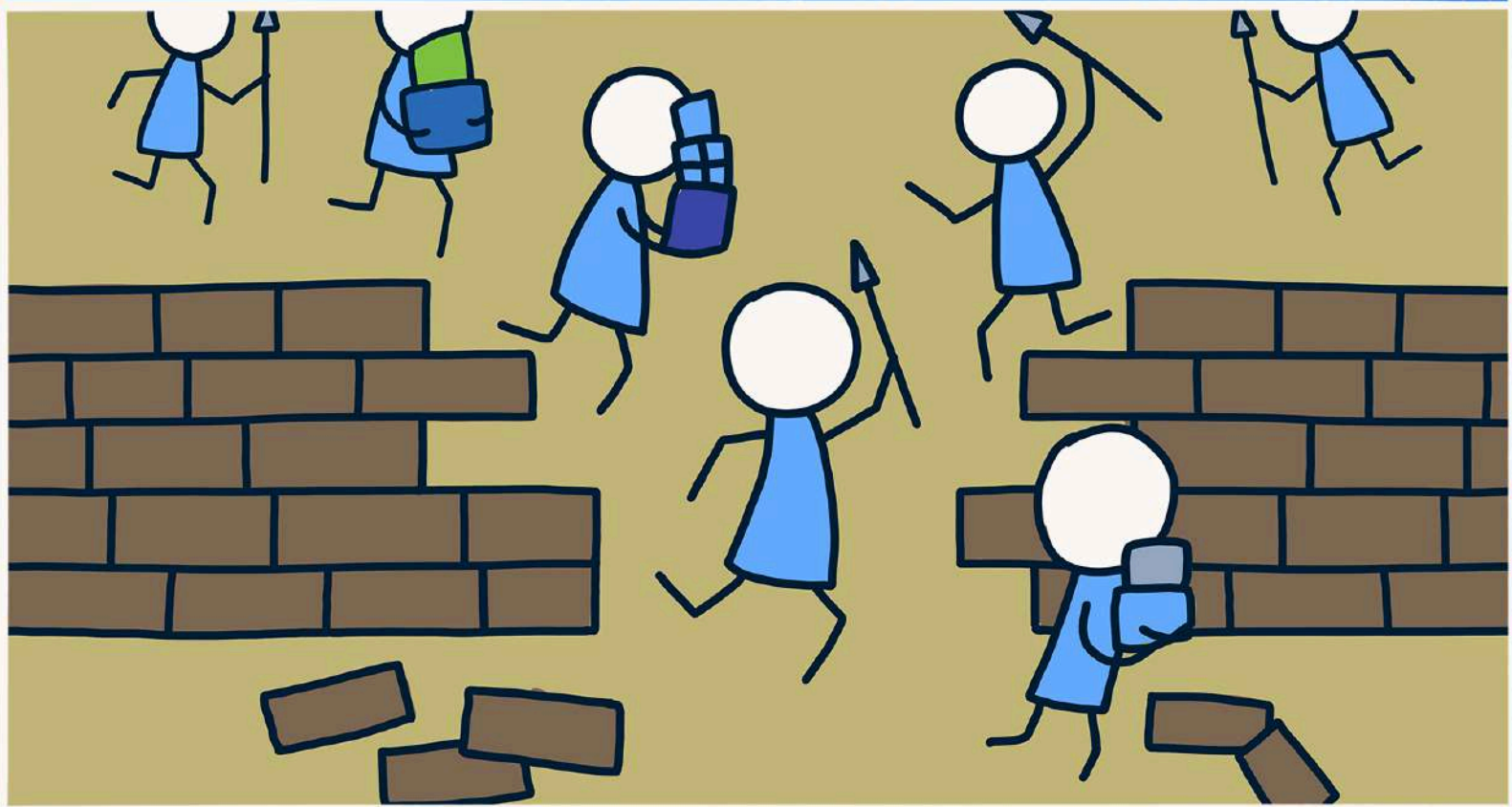
Nehemiah

Nehemiah 1-6

This is a story from the Bible about a man named Nehemiah. Everyone, hold up your happy face. (Allow responses)

That's how Nehemiah was feeling until he got some bad news. What do you think that bad news was? (Allow responses)

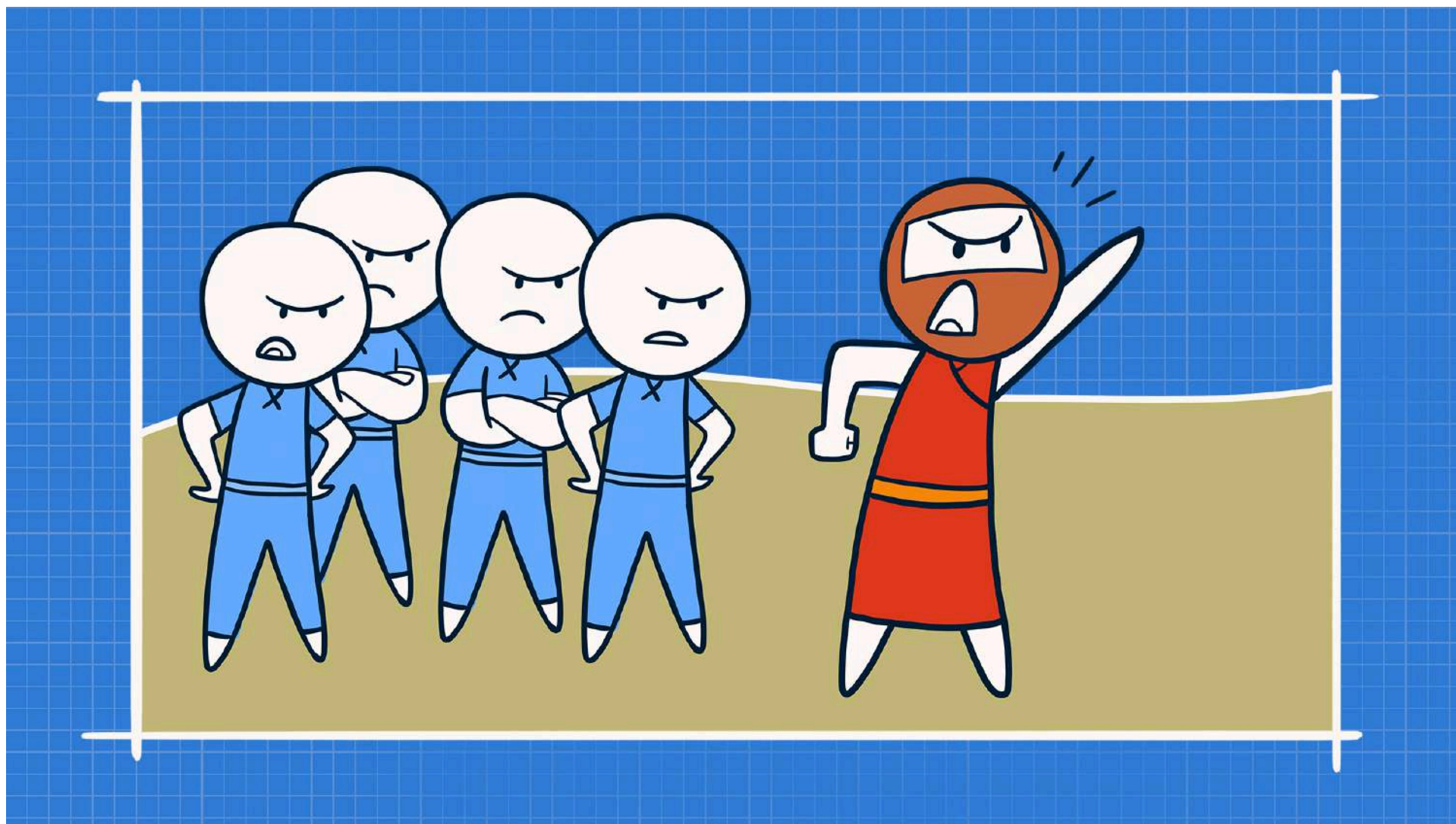
Those are all great guesses! Let's keep reading to find out.



See, Nehemiah was working in the king's palace when he found out that the wall in his hometown had been torn down, and the gates were burned with fire. This meant that all of their enemies were able to sneak in whenever they wanted and take whatever they wanted.

*How do you think that made the people in Nehemiah's hometown feel?
Show me with your paper plate faces. (Allow responses)*

Well, the people in Nehemiah's town were feeling angry. And after praying about what to do, Nehemiah felt like it was his job to do something about it. So Nehemiah got permission from the king and rushed back home. There, he gathered a crew of people to help him rebuild the wall.



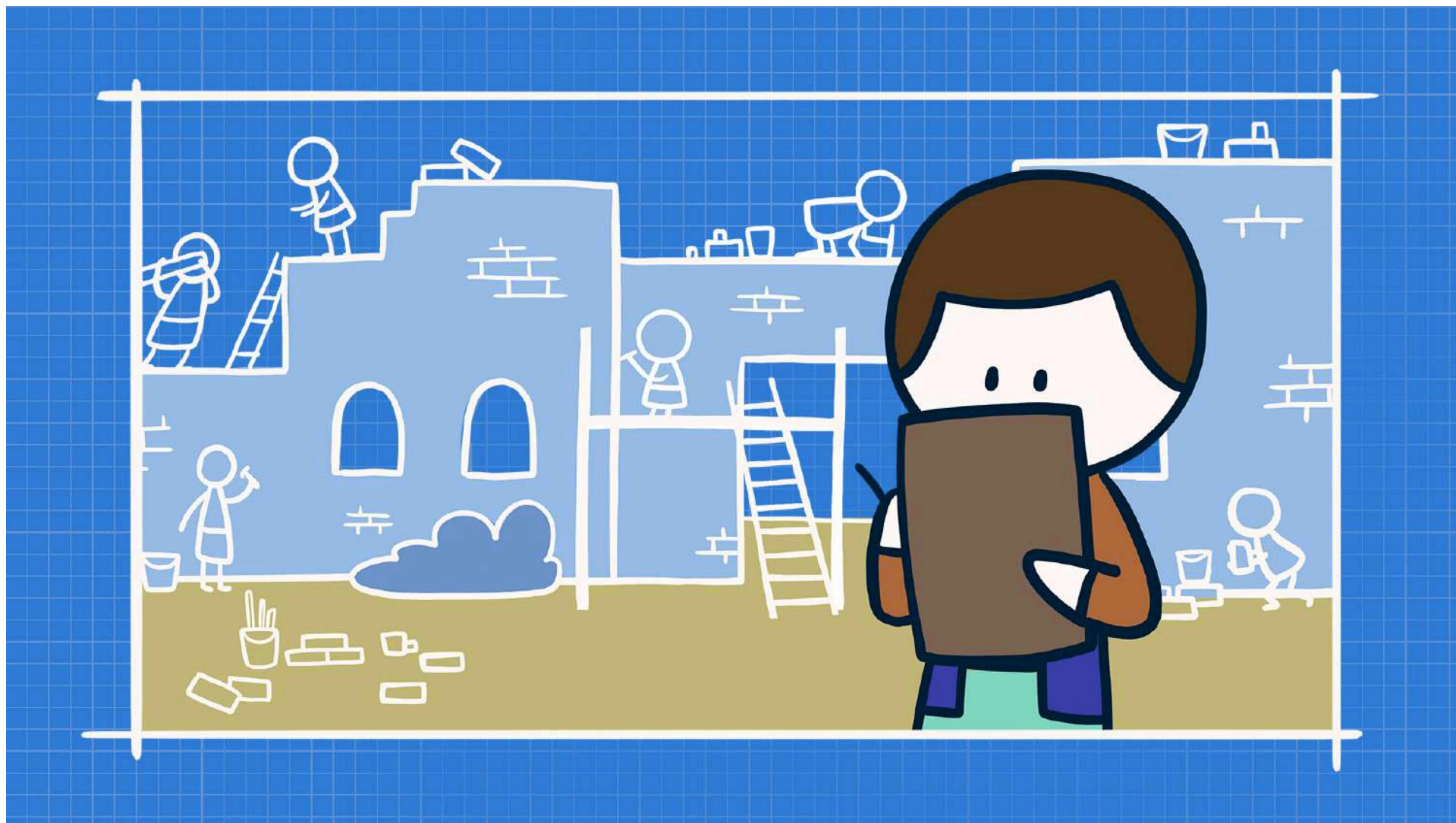
But there was one big problem. There were a lot of mean people who didn't want Nehemiah and the crew to rebuild that wall. One of them was named Sanballat. Everyone, hold up your angry face. (Allow responses)

That's pretty much what Sanballat looked like as he said many mean things to Nehemiah. How do you think Nehemiah responded to Sanballat? Let me see you hold up your angry paper plate face if you think Nehemiah said mean things back to him. (Allow responses)

Now, let me see your happy paper plate faces if you think Nehemiah just kept working on the wall. (Allow responses)

You're right! Nehemiah just kept on smiling. He didn't say one mean thing back to Sanballat. Nehemiah prayed to God and kept on working.

Now, show me your angry faces. (Allow responses) That's exactly how Sanballat was feeling as he watched Nehemiah continue working on the wall.



Sanballat wanted Nehemiah to feel really angry, and when that didn't happen, Sanballat was not a happy camper. He kept making fun of Nehemiah and the crew as they worked, but that didn't stop them from working hard to finish the wall.

God helped Nehemiah have self-control, and even though he had a lot of reasons to be angry, he stayed focused on God's help and rebuilt the wall in record time. Using your paper plates, show me what you think Nehemiah's face looked like when he realized that God had given him self-control. (Allow responses)

That's right! He was happy! The next time someone is saying mean things to us, trying to keep us from doing what we know is right, or we feel our anger starting to build, we can have self-control just like Nehemiah did by praying to God and asking for help!