Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

NEHEMIAH BUILDS THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM / GIVING THANKS TO GOD

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**NEHEMIAH BUILDS THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM /
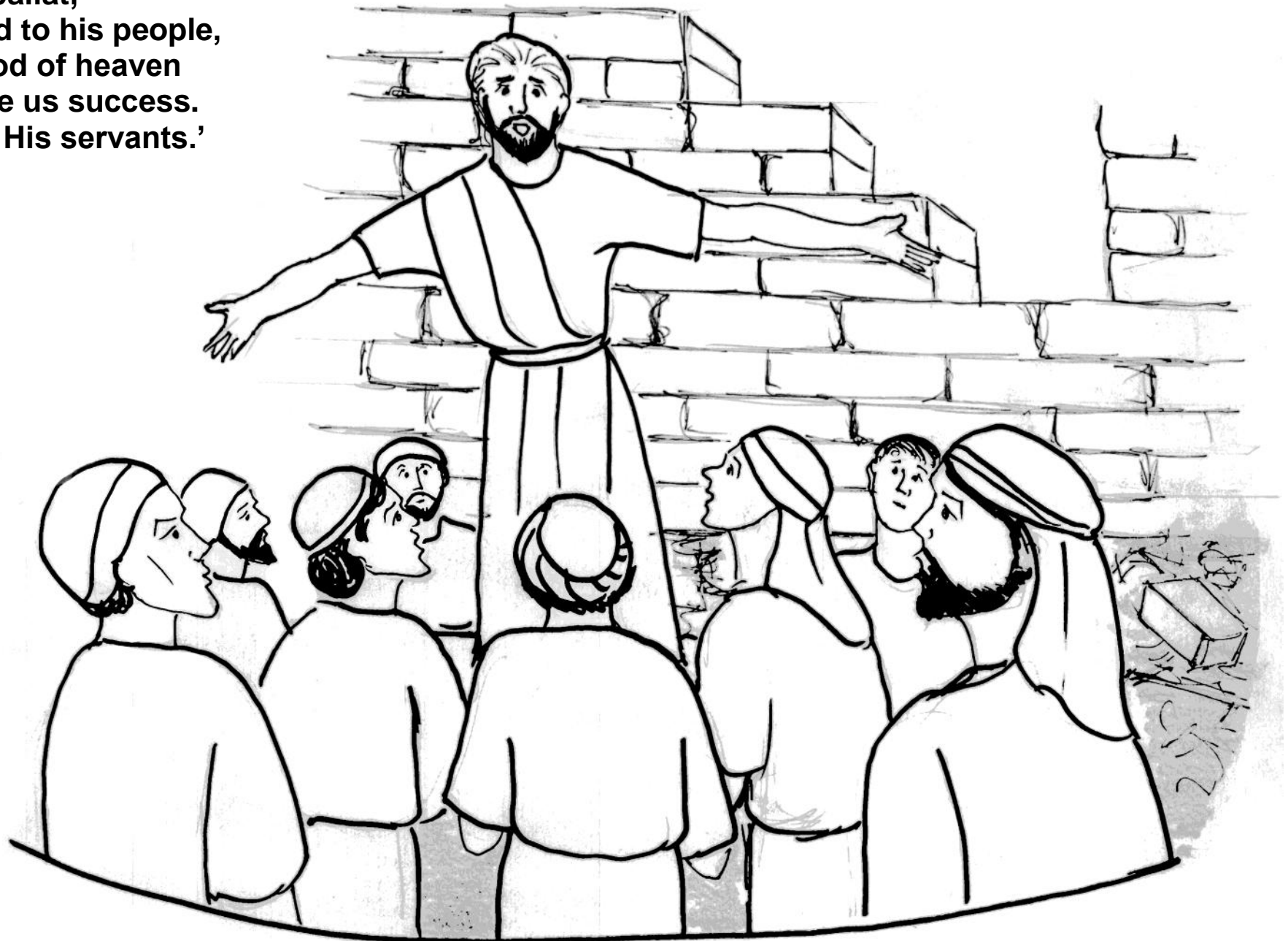GIVING THANKS TO GOD**
File no. 99

**Nehemiah and the men of Judah
kept on building the
walls of Jerusalem.**

**Sanballat and his friends,
tried to stop them.
They laughed and
made fun of them,
then asked,
'Are you going
against the king?'**

Nehemiah did not listen
to Sanballat,
but said to his people,
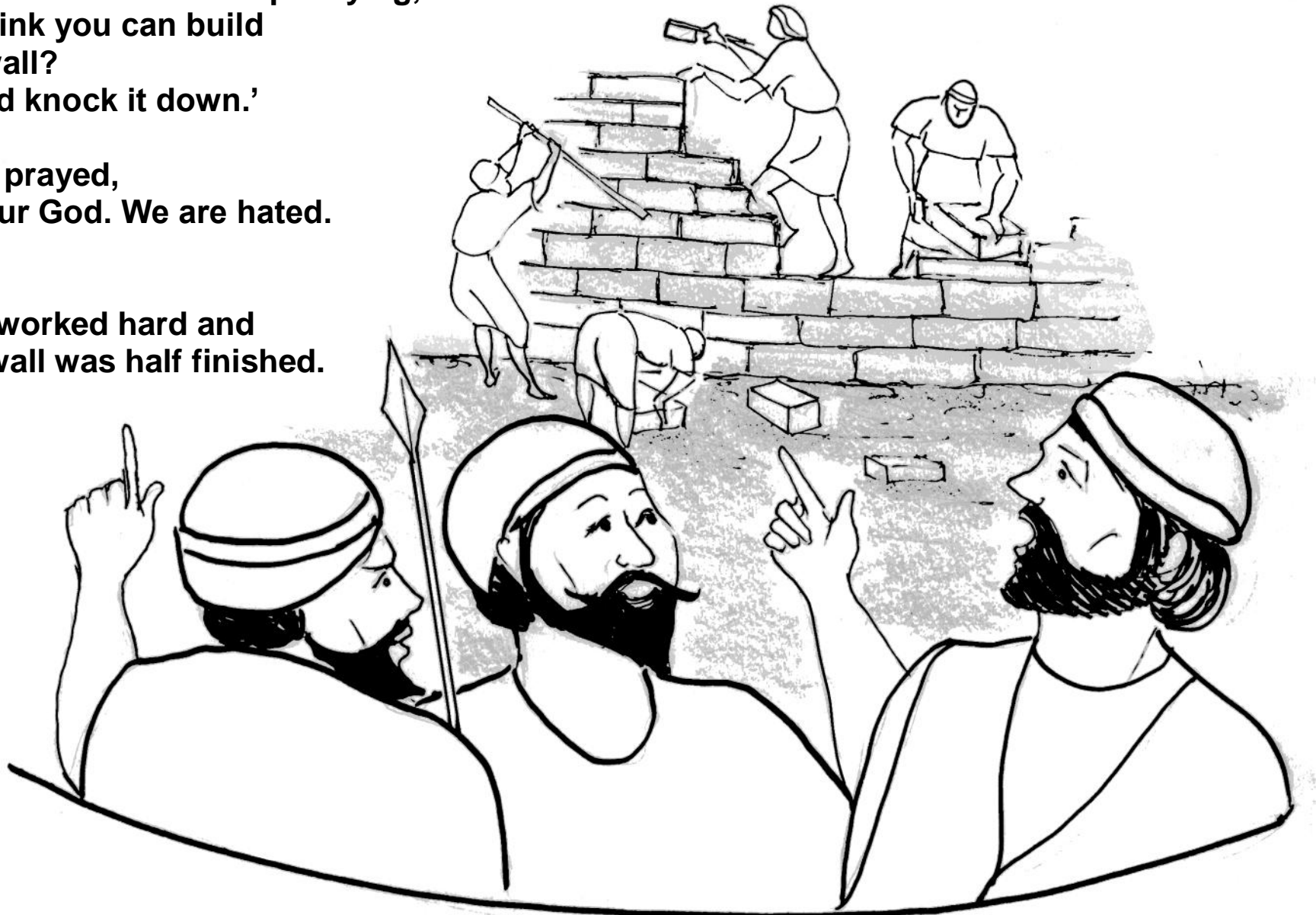'The God of heaven
will give us success.
We are His servants.'

Each family was given a part of the wall
to rebuild.

Sanballat and his friends kept saying,
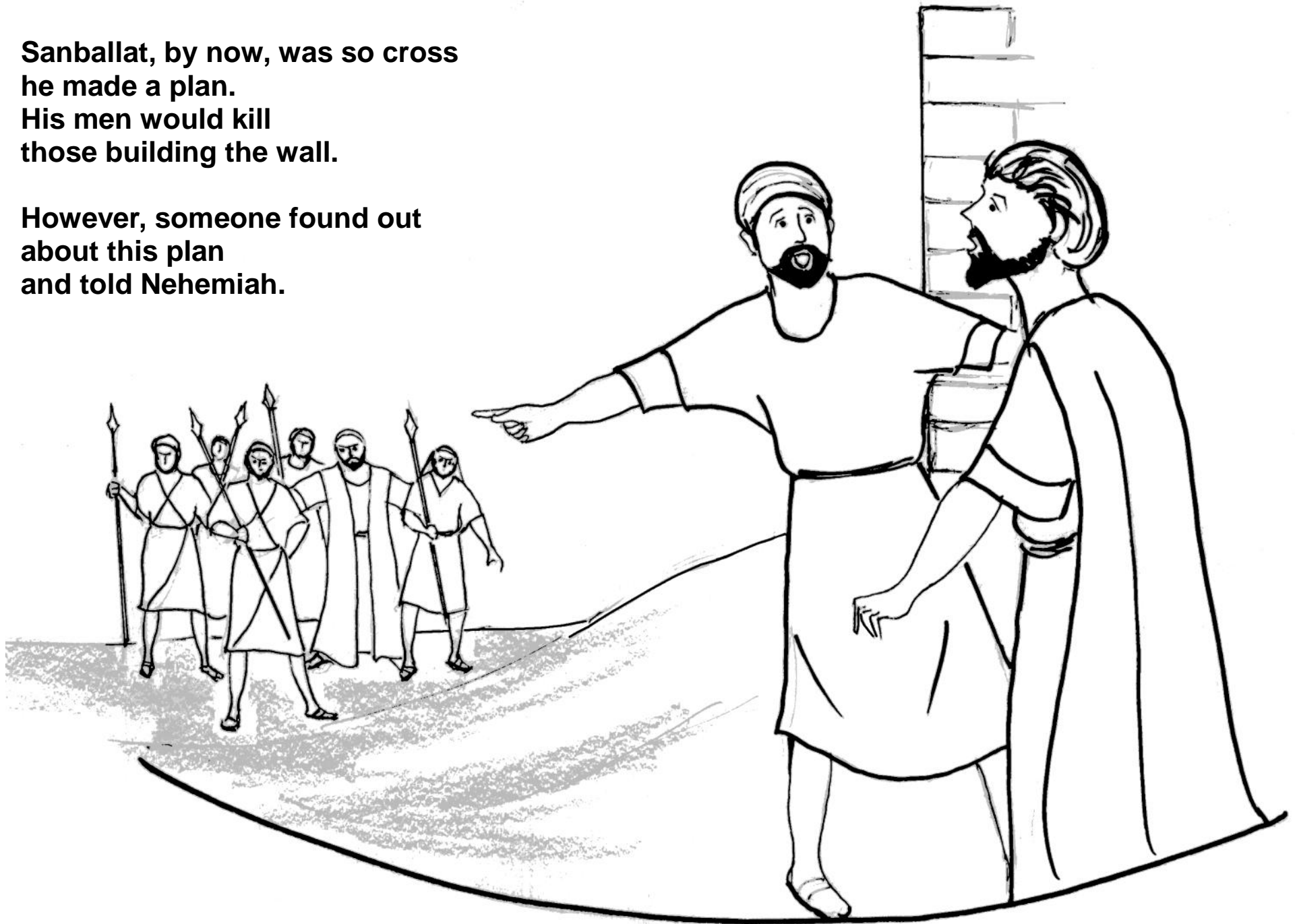'Do you think you can build
a strong wall?
A fox could knock it down.'

Nehemiah prayed,
'Hear us our God. We are hated.
Help us.'

Everyone worked hard and
soon the wall was half finished.

Sanballat, by now, was so cross
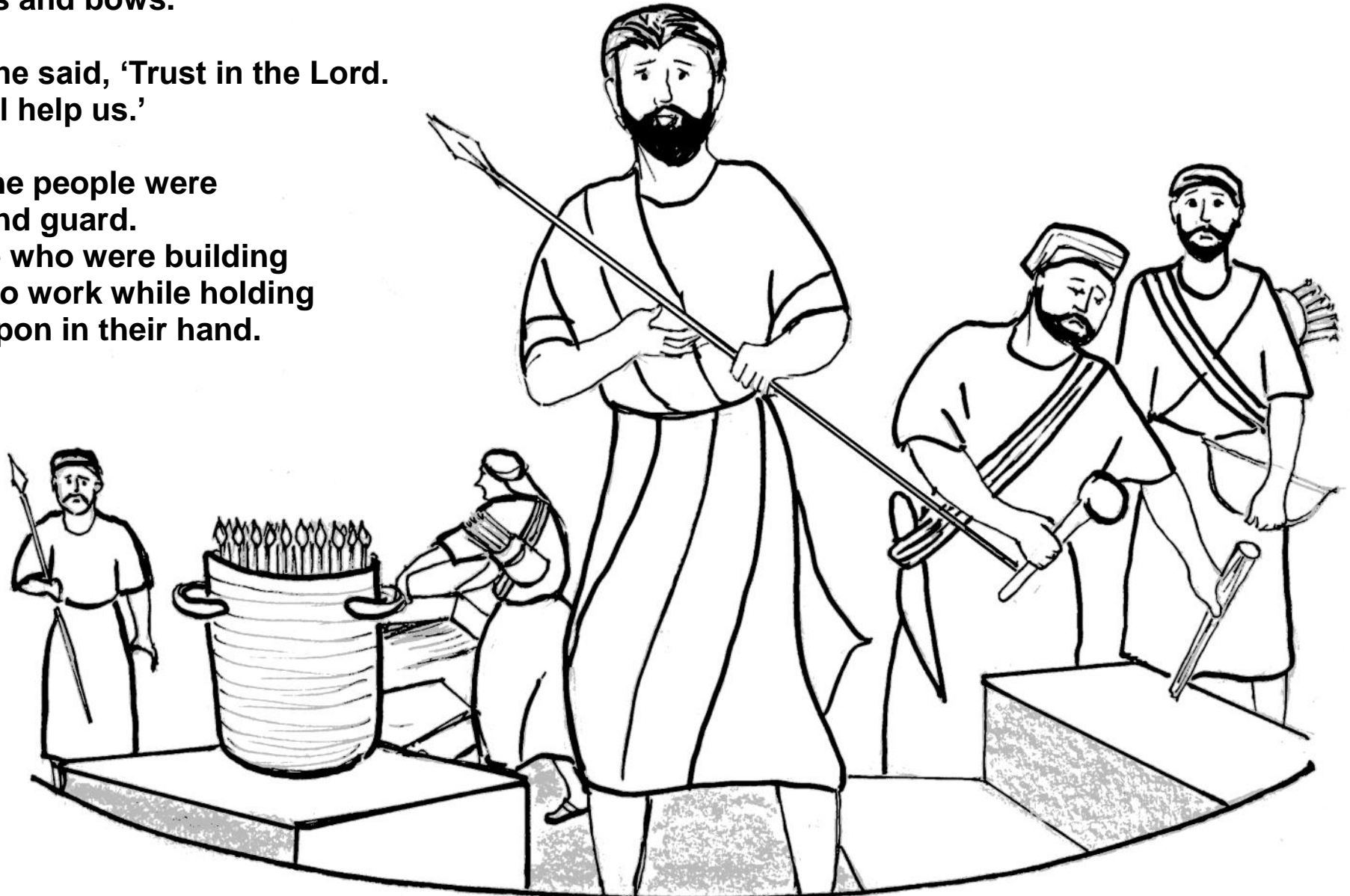he made a plan.
His men would kill
those building the wall.

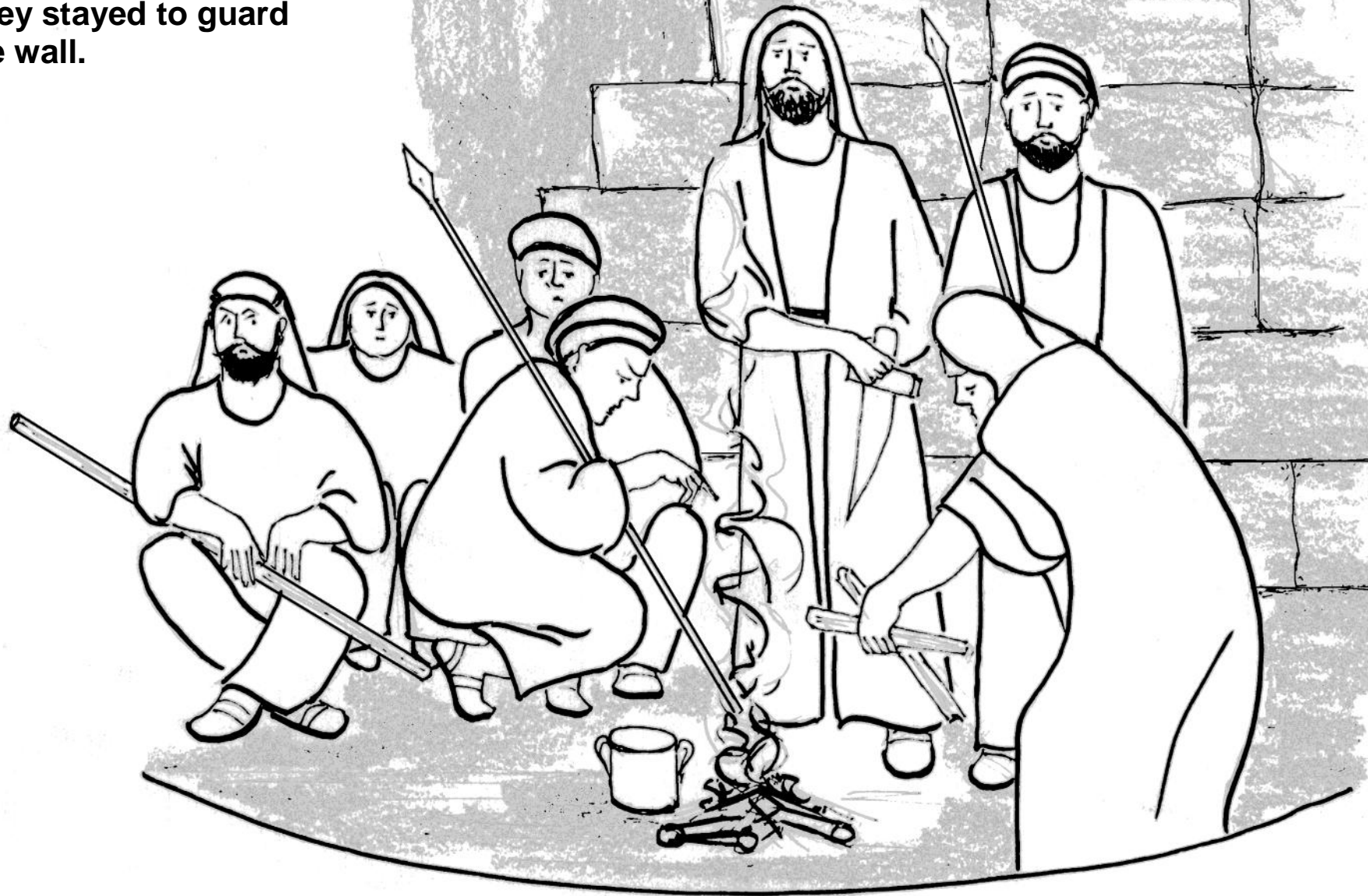However, someone found out
about this plan
and told Nehemiah.

Nehemiah told everyone to
be on guard.
He gave them swords,
spears and bows.

Then he said, 'Trust in the Lord.
He will help us.'

Half the people were
to stand guard.
Those who were building
were to work while holding
a weapon in their hand.

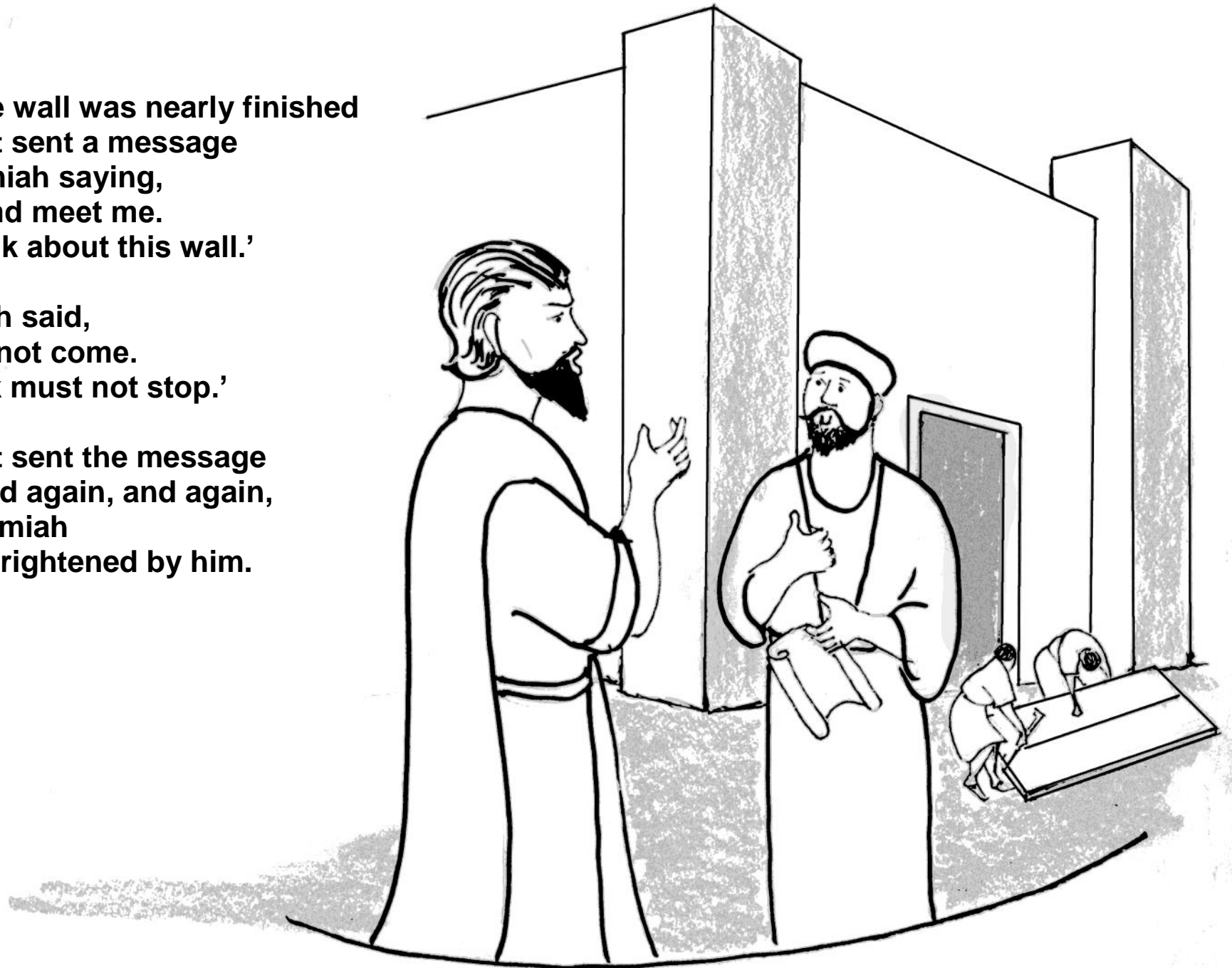At night no one went home.
They did not even
change their clothes.
They stayed to guard
the wall.

When the wall was nearly finished
Sanballat sent a message
to Nehemiah saying,
'Come and meet me.
Let us talk about this wall.'

Nehemiah said,
'No I cannot come.
The work must not stop.'

Sanballat sent the message
again, and again, and again,
but Nehemiah
was not frightened by him.

Then he tried something else.

He paid an old man to say
to Nehemiah,
'Your enemies are going to kill you.
Come and hide in the temple
so you will not be killed.'

Nehemiah answered,
'I am not the kind of man that
runs away and hides
to save my life.'

God then showed him that
this old man had been sent
to frighten him
and try and make him sin.

At last the walls were finished.
They had taken fifty-two days
to build.

Everyone gathered together and
gave thanks to God.
They walked around the wall
singing, playing music
and praising God.

After that they sacrificed
to the Lord
and rejoiced in God.

People far away
could hear the sound
of them giving thanks.