

Working together – Nehemiah and Ezra

Nehemiah chapters 2 to 8 (particularly chapters 3 and 8); 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

This GenR8 Connect looks at the story of when Nehemiah and the people rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem which had been destroyed by their enemies. Nehemiah trusted God to help, and his faith and enthusiasm inspired everyone to work together to rebuild the walls and fix the gates. He organised people into groups with each given a part of the rebuilding work to complete; it was all finished in 52 days. Ezra the priest then read from the book of the law and the people were sad because they had not been living the way that God wanted them to - but Ezra told them they should celebrate that they had completed the wall and should follow God in the future.

In the Bible, in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 verses 14 – 20, the people of God are likened to a body - we all have different roles that are equally valuable. It is a reminder that we all have our own gifts and talents and can achieve more if we work together.

“For the body itself is not made up of only one part, but of many parts... If the whole body were just an eye, how could it hear? And if it were only an ear, how could it smell? As it is, however, God put every different part in the body just as he wanted it to be.”

Reflection

- Think about what it means to work together on a task. It's not always easy and can require patience, trust, talking and listening to others, and valuing other people's gifts and talents.
- The Bible says everyone has their part to play. How can you encourage others to feel valued and play their part?
- Think about the ancient proverb 'Many hands make light work.' Are there things we can do to play our part, at school and at home, to help and make other people's work less difficult?

Story Link

A short cartoon version of the story of Nehemiah rebuilding the wall can be found here – please check to see if it suitable for your group: <https://youtu.be/-AF72UeiP04>

Inspire Prayer Space Activity – Working Together

Equipment

- Pens, pencils or crayons
- Cut out jigsaw pieces using the attached template printed on to paper or card

Description

- The Bible teaches that everyone has a very important part to play in life, and that we achieve more when we work together.
- What parts do you play in life? Friend, son, daughter, sister, brother, pupil, or team member? You are an important part of all of those groups – they wouldn't be the same without you!

Instructions

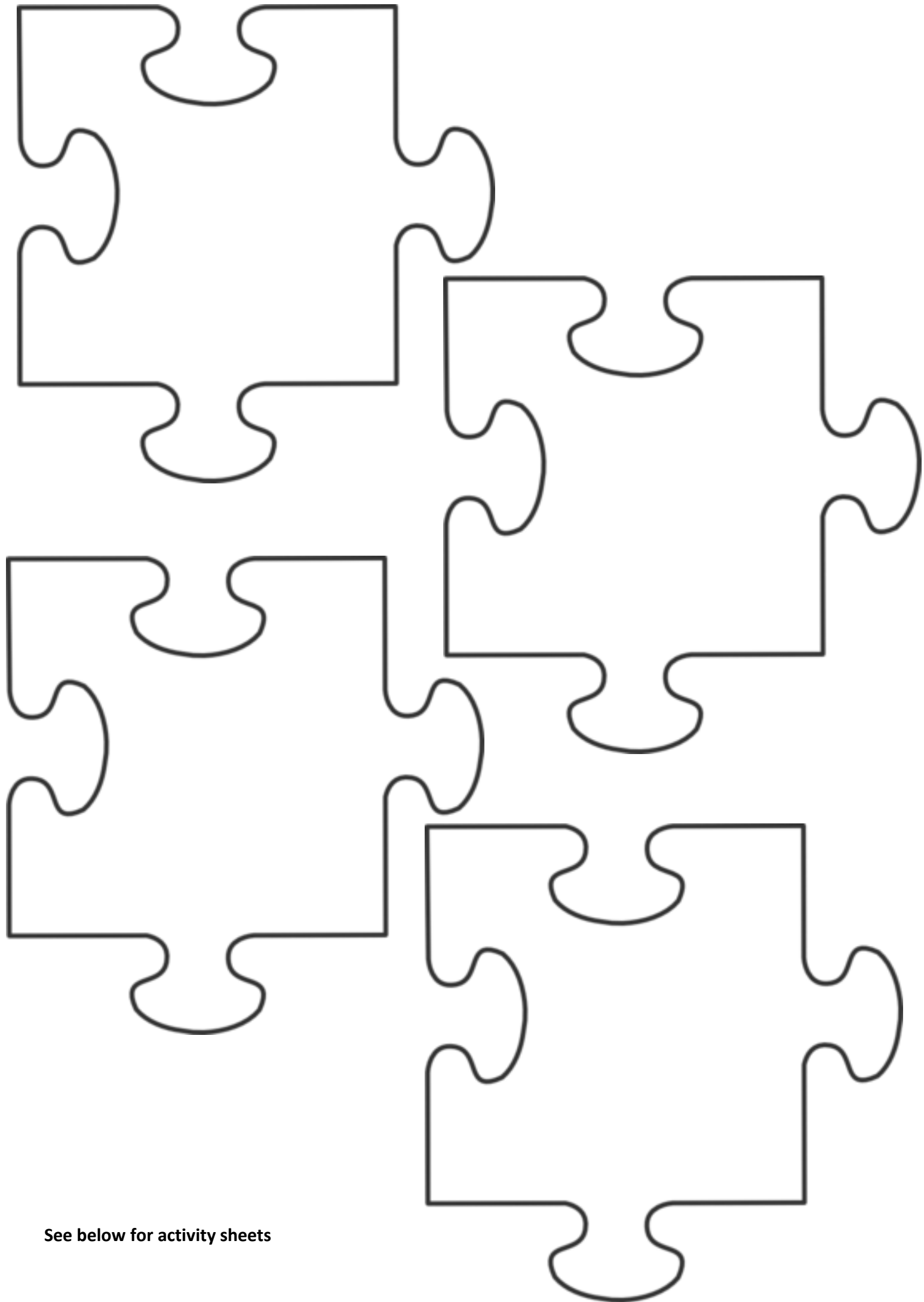
- Write your name on a piece of the jigsaw puzzle and decorate it however you like. Add your piece with others – either your group at school or your family at home. Notice how you all fit in together.

See below for jigsaw template

Adapted from a Prayer Spaces in Schools resource

inspire
prayer spaces





See below for activity sheets

Working Together – Nehemiah chapters 3 and 8

Colour in and complete the story using the words in the box



God asked N _ _ _ _ _ to get all the p _ _ _ _ _ to rebuild the w _ _ _ _ _ and
g _ _ _ _ of Jerusalem, that had been destroyed by their e _ _ _ _ _ . They all worked
t _ _ _ _ . When they had finished, E _ _ _ _ the priest read from the book of the
law of G _ _ _ .

enemies	Ezra	gates	God
Nehemiah	people	together	walls

Use the highlighted letters to fill the blank word below, finishing the story:

Ezra told the people to celebrate, saying, “The joy of the Lord is your _ _ _ _ _ .”

Nehemiah and the Wall Spot the Differences

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 12 things that are different.

