ARKANSAS BAPTIST
Children & Family
MINISTRIES

RISE UP

THEY ARE COUNTING ON US

52 Days of focused prayer for the vulnerable children and families of Arkansas



So they said, “Let us **rise up** and **build**. Then they set their hands to this **good work**.”

The story of Nehemiah offers us a profound roadmap, not just for ABCFM, but also for individuals and churches burdened to serve the vulnerable children and families within our communities. Just as the walls of Jerusalem lay in ruins and its gates were burned, many children and families around us experience a similar sense of vulnerability and defenselessness. Amid various ways to get involved, dedicating focused prayer stands out as a powerful means to impact lives in Arkansas. By committing to 52 days of prayer, we can witness the rebuilding of the brokenness around us, working together to accomplish this vital mission.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST
Children & Family
MINISTRIES

Living WELL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING
Connected FAMILIES
Desired Haven FAMILY CARE
ARKANSAS BAPTIST Homes FOR CHILDREN
Explorers ACADEMY
ARKANSAS BAPTIST Ranch

NEHEMIAH NOTES

1:2 – he cared enough to ask
1:4 – he was so moved by the report, he stopped everything and mourned for many days
1:6 – he owned his part in the situation
1:11 – he was willing to risk it all because he knew what had to be done
2:2 – he wasn't sad and then just got over it. He was wearing it
2:4 – he made a bold request
2:7 – he made an even bolder request
2:11-12 – he got personally involved
2:13 – he didn't make any of it about himself
2:17 – he got everyone involved; didn't gloss over the reality of their position
3:1-32 – every family had a part
4:1-6 – in the midst of ridicule they kept building
4:7-9 – they never lost sight of the enemy
4:15-18 – everyone had different roles but all kept watch for the enemy while they continued to work
4:22-23 – the leaders were as committed as the people
6:3 – true leaders keep working
6:15 – the walls can be rebuilt if we all work together. If we all do our part we can accomplish the task in no time
6:16 – when we rebuild the walls people will notice and God will get the glory because the scope of the work is too big for us to in our own power
8:1-18 – recognize and worship God for His faithfulness and His Word

PRAYER PRINCIPLES

1. Each time a problem or threat arose, Nehemiah prayed first. He went to God first.
2. His trust was in God and not self.
3. The book begins and ends with prayer

WEEK ONE
ASK

Day 1: Ask God to open you eyes to see the vulnerable children and families around you.

Day 2: Ask God to forgive His church for not being aware of the most vulnerable sooner.

Day 3: Ask God to break your heart for the struggling children and families in your community.

Day 4: Ask God to hear your prayers for the children and families in your community.

Day 5: Ask God to move among Arkansas Baptists and give them a heart to fight for vulnerable children and families.

Day 6: Ask God to raise up new foster families to welcome children into safe and nurturing homes.

Day 7: Ask God to bless all of the child warfare front line workers as they step into the broken lives of His precious children.

WEEK TWO
PRAY

Day 8: Pray for struggling families to be renewed and restored to a state of spiritual health.

Day 9: Pray for God to send new workers into the harvest of broken families and vulnerable children.

Day 10: Pray for God to strengthen those who are already working in the harvest.

Day 11: Pray for the leadership within the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services. Pray that they would make the best decisions for the health and future for the foster children of Arkansas.

Day 12: Pray for the leadership of ABCFM to continue to provide the resources and support for foster families and biological families within our care.

Day 13: Pray for the pastors of Arkansas to lead their church to partner with ABCFM and get involved in stepping into the lives of vulnerable children and families of Arkansas.

Day 14: Pray for God to grant mercy and favor to ABCFM as we work with other child welfare agencies across Arkansas

WEEK THREE
SURVEY

Day 15: Survey the present state of child welfare in the state and in your local community and allow God to open our eyes to the tremendous need in our state and community.

Day 16: Survey the present state of broken families in your community and allow God to open your eyes to the desperate condition so many face.

Day 17: Survey the "broken walls" of children and families and allow God to lead you to beg Him for mercy in their lives.

Day 18: Survey the "gates that have been burned with fire" and allow God to show you how you can begin to rebuild the gates.

Day 19: Survey the state of support resources in your community and allow God to raise up those who work in that area.

Day 20: Survey the heart of your church and allow God to use your church to begin rebuilding the broken-down walls.

Day 21: Survey your own heart and allow God to lead you to get personally involved.

WEEK FOUR
GET PERSONALLY INVOLVED

Day 22: Allow God to show you where you can get personally involved.

Day 23: Allow the present reality of the brokenness in the lives of children and families of Arkansas lead you to action.

Day 24: Allow yourself permission to say "YES" to the most vulnerable among us.

Day 25: Allow yourself to see the hurting families as God sees them.

Day 26: Allow yourself to be reminded that hurting children and families have been created in the image of God and they are worthy of our best efforts.

Day 27: Allow your family to be part of bringing hope to those in crisis.

Day 28: Allow your heart to be broken for the brokenness in your local community.

WEEK FIVE
GET OTHERS INVOLVED

Day 29: Seek others to join you in reaping the harvest of bringing hope to the hopeless.

Day 30: Seek others who will join you in prayer for the children and families of Arkansas.

Day 31: Seek others who will invest their lives in building, strengthening, and restoring Arkansas Families for God's Glory.

Day 32: Seek opportunities to share with others the reason you are personally involved in being hope to children and families in crisis.

Day 33: Seek others who have a burden for the brokenness around them and share with them how they can partner with ABCFM to bring hope to the hopeless.

Day 34: Seek opportunities to share with your church leaders how your church can be a resource for hurting families in your community.

Day 35: Seek time to recruit a volunteer team to serve at an ABCFM location near you.

WEEK SIX
KEEP BUILDING

Day 36: Keep building when the enemy tries to stop you.

Day 37: Keep building when you are afraid to keep building.

Day 38: Keep building even if others around you stop building.

Day 39: Keep building when the work seems too much.

Day 40: Keep building when you are tired and want to quit.

Day 41: Keep building when oppressors ridicule you for the work you are doing.

Day 42: Keep building because the children and families of Arkansas are worth it.

This week of prayer can be prayed for your church, churches across the state, and our staff as we collectively rebuild the walls of brokenness around us.

WEEK SEVEN
GIVE THANKS

Day 43: Thank God for faithfully loving the vulnerable children and families of Arkansas.

Day 44: Thank God for faithfully calling workers into this harvest.

Day 45: Thank God for giving you are heart to see the hurting children and families in your community.

Day 46: Thank God for churches who are partnering with ABCFM to build, strengthen, and restore Arkansas families for His glory.

Day 47: Thank God that He has not given up or lost sight of the broken lives of children and families.

Day 48: Thank God that you have a daily opportunity to bring hope to the hopeless and healing to the broken.

Day 49: Thank God in advance for the incredible ways He will use all of us to prove His love for children and families who so desperately need it.

WEEK EIGHT
COVER IN PRAYER

Day 50: Cover in prayer the caseworkers, coaches, and champions who are on the frontlines fighting for children and families

Day 51: Cover in prayer the Christian counselors who are walking into brokenness each day with the light of Christ.

Day 52: Cover in prayer the staff of ABCFM and the foster families who have said "YES" to opening their home as a continual mission field


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HEALTHY
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CHURCHES
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