

Dear Families:

Today we visited a passage from the Old Testament. In the book of Nehemiah, we learned that the Jewish people had been captured and taken away to Babylon. They were exiled- not allowed to return to their homeland, or to practice their traditions. After 50 years, the people were finally allowed to return to Jerusalem. By now, though, most of the people had no recollection of their homeland, and were unfamiliar with their traditions. A man named Nehemiah asked the Babylonian king if he could return to Jerusalem and help to rebuild the city wall. He, along with many others, was able to accomplish this great task in 52 days! After the repairs were completed, Nehemiah gathered all the people. He opened the scroll that contained the story and laws of Moses. He read from morning until mid-afternoon. For many, it was the first time they had heard their history and God's laws. Teachers walked through the crowd, helping the people understand what they were hearing. Many were so happy to hear God's laws that they cried tears of joy. We are given God's word, too! May we use it to bring God's will to Earth, and may we be thankful that we were given such good counsel and guidance!

Today, we began our hot chocolate sales to benefit Literacy of Love. For \$1, you can enjoy a cup of gourmet hot chocolate! We encourage you to use your own mug, but cups will be available if needed. We will have a variety of flavors and toppings available. Please help support the boys in their mission work! The sales will continue as long as the cold weather lasts.

Thank you for being with us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director