

SERMON SERIES



NEHEMIAH

RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

STUDY GUIDE • NEHEMIAH 4

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GOD'S WORK & WARFARE

NEHEMIAH 4

WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus

Have you experienced a life-threatening situation? Share with the group what happened, how you reacted, and how God resolved the situation.

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- Still
- He Will Hold Me Fast
- A Mighty Fortress is Our God

WORD: Understanding the Word

LESSON AIM

1. Members will realize that those who oppose their work for God are actually opposing God.
2. Members will rely upon God for protection.
3. Members will take necessary precautions to protect themselves as well.

INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapter, we saw how almost everyone contributed to the work of rebuilding the wall. It didn't matter what profession or background the people had; they helped in the work. The rebuilding effort was off to a good start. However, the Jews faced difficulties in this chapter. Let's learn what kinds of obstacles they faced and how they overcame them.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. How did Sanballat and company taunt the rebuilding effort? (vv. 1-3)
2. What did Nehemiah pray to God against these people? (vv. 4-5)
3. What did Sanballat and company plan when they saw the work progressing? (vv. 7-8)
4. How did the Jews react to this plot? (v. 9)
5. What problems did the Jews face as they continued in the work? (vv. 10-12)
6. How did Nehemiah address these concerns? (vv. 13-14)
7. How did the Jews continue their work amidst concern for their safety? (vv. 15-18, 21-23)
8. How did Nehemiah encourage the nobles? (vv. 19-20)

WORD: Understanding the Word

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. When Nehemiah prayed to God about the taunts of Sanballat and company, he said, “for they have provoked you [God] to anger.” Why did Nehemiah treat their taunts as against God instead of themselves?
2. The Jews prayed when they heard that their enemies were plotting to attack them. Why do you think this was their first course of action, and what can we learn from their example?
3. Nehemiah addressed the Jews’ failing physical and emotional strength by providing troops to protect them from enemy attack. He encouraged them by saying, “Our God will fight for us.” Yet, he stationed troops to defend themselves if necessary. How do you balance between depending on God and taking action?

WALK: Applying the Word

APPLICATIONS

- CHILDREN -

1. When you feel discouraged, overwhelmed, tired, or sad, what do you do? What promises of God found in the Bible help you to stay strong?
2. In Nehemiah 4, we saw that there were enemies or people who wished to do evil things. Do you have enemies or people who hate you? Take the time to pray for these people. Pray that God will change their hearts to be more friendly. Pray also that you will still be kind and loving to them.
3. Memorize Nehemiah 4:14, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.” This verse will remind you that God is in control and that He will never leave you nor forsake you.

- YOUTH -

1. What are some of the things going on in your life right now that have been discouraging you from doing the tasks God has called you to do?
2. Who of your Christian friends can you go to for encouragement when you are facing discouragement?
3. How can you encourage others to rely on God who might be experiencing the same things as you do?

WALK: Applying the Word

- ADULTS -

1. Have you encountered persecution for doing God's work? How did you feel and respond? How do you think Christians should respond when being persecuted by the world?
2. In what ways do you seek strength, wisdom, and protection from God? What has worked best for you?
3. In what areas of your life do you think you are most prone to attacks of God's enemies? What steps can you take to protect yourself?

- COMMUNAL -

1. What work of God do you think is being attacked in your community? What can you do to join in God's work and help the community?
2. How can you keep yourself from feeling frustrated or depressed when experiencing persecution from the community?
3. How can you refocus your heart to remember that God is working in your community even if there are discouragements?




- GLOBAL -

1. There are areas in the globe where Christians are being persecuted and their lives are at stake. Do you think you are able to make a difference even though you are geographically removed from them? If so, how?
2. How can you be more aware of persecution that is happening around the world so you can better pray for others?
3. As Christians, what should our response be when we read about injustice in other parts of the world?



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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