

SERMON SERIES



# NEHEMIAH

RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

STUDY GUIDE • NEHEMIAH 6

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**FINISHING WELL  
DESPITE  
DISCOURAGEMENT  
AND DECEPTION**

NEHEMIAH 6

## **WELCOME:** Fixing Our Focus

Share with the group how the fall of a prominent church leader can impact the entire Christian community.

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## **WORSHIP:** Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- O God, Our Help in Ages Past
- He Will Hold Me Fast
- Psalm 121 (I Lift My Eyes)

# WORD: Understanding the Word

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## LESSON AIM

1. Members will recognize the need and urgency of praying for church leaders.
2. Members will be courageous and discerning in the Lord.
3. Members will do all things in God's strength.

## INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapters, we saw how Satan used Sanballat and company to oppose the rebuilding of the wall. When they failed to hinder the rebuilding of the wall, Satan shifted his attack by using the greed and selfishness of the Jews against their fellow Jews. When Nehemiah confronted them with their sin and they repented, Satan now shifts his attack against Nehemiah, the one God used to lead His people in the rebuilding work. Let's take a look at how Satan attacked Nehemiah and how he was able to defend against them.

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. What did Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem do when they heard that the wall was nearing completion? (vv. 1-2)
2. How did Nehemiah respond to them? (vv. 3-4)
3. What is different about the fifth letter they sent to Nehemiah? (vv. 5-7)
4. How did Nehemiah respond this time? (vv. 8-9)
5. What did Shemaiah prophecy to Nehemiah? (v. 10)
6. How did Nehemiah react upon hearing it? (vv. 12-14)
7. How long did it take to rebuild the wall? (v. 15)
8. What was the reaction of the enemies of the Jews when the wall was finished? (v. 16)
9. What is the relationship between Tobiah and the nobles of Judah? (vv. 17-18)
10. What were the nobles and Tobiah doing to Nehemiah? (v. 19)

# WORD: Understanding the Word

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## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. Why do you think Sanballat and company wrote letters to Nehemiah?
2. What can you say about Nehemiah's response to their letters?
3. In their last letter, they threatened Nehemiah. How could Nehemiah have responded differently, and what do you think the outcome would have been?
4. Shemaiah and Noadiah, together with other unnamed prophets, prophesied falsely to Nehemiah. Prophets were known to speak the words of God. Why do you think Nehemiah was able to discern that they were false?
5. What can you say about the speed at which the rebuilding work was finished?
6. What can you say about the nobles of Judah who had allied themselves with Tobiah? What could have been their motives for doing so?

# WALK: Applying the Word

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## APPLICATIONS

- CHILDREN -

1. In this chapter of Nehemiah, we saw that there were people who wanted to scare Nehemiah. What are some of the things that you are afraid of? Are there people or bullies in your life who want to harm you or hurt you? List them down and take the time to pray and ask God to give you the courage, grace, and strength to face them. Remember: our hope is in the Lord.
2. But even when there were discouragements in the form of people, verse 15 tells us that the wall was finished. In verse 16, Nehemiah's enemies realized that "this work had been accomplished with the help of our God." Is anything too difficult for the Lord? Can we still finish well even when we have enemies? Why? What did God do here?
3. Our enemy, Satan, wants to scare and discourage us. Lift up to the Lord in prayer our church leaders such as our pastors, elders, deacons, Sunday School teachers and growth group leaders that God will protect them from these hurtful words and thoughts so that they may finish and accomplish whatever they need to do.

- YOUTH -

1. What are things Satan uses to discourage you from living a life in obedience to God? Knowing these things, what can you do to counter it?
2. How do you think Satan attacks church leaders today? What can you do to encourage church leaders? What areas can you pray for your church leaders in?
3. Problems we read about online and ones we face in our own lives can be overwhelming at times - how can you refocus your trust on God and find strength from Him?



# WALK: Applying the Word

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## - ADULTS -

1. What happens when church leaders fall to Satan's attacks? Is there anything church members can do to prevent this from happening?
2. How do you discern whether what is being said is from God or not? How can one become more discerning?
3. We saw how Satan can use fear to try to get people to sin against God. What are ways we can protect ourselves from sinning against God when fear hits us?

## - COMMUNAL -

1. In this chapter we saw how the nobles of Judah were compromised by their alignment with their enemies. Do you see the same thing happening in your community today? What are some things you can do to protect yourself and your community from being compromised?
2. In what ways can we develop healthy relationships with people in our community while protecting ourselves from compromising with the world?
3. When was the last time you prayed for our GCF pastors, church workers & leaders? Like Nehemiah they are faced by Sanballats and Tobiahs; seen and unseen forces/ challenges of our times. Could you commit 10 minutes daily to pray for them; that God will protect their minds and make their hearts sensitive to His will?
4. As we face everyday decisions in life, are we sensitive enough to recognize the work of God and the scheme of man/our adversary? What do we do when we are tempted to follow the scheme of man? Whom do we turn to when we need advice/guidance?




## - GLOBAL -

1. Our culture is gradually becoming more hostile toward Christianity. How can churches help each other persevere against persecution?
2. What hinders you most of the time to continue serving others for Christ? Is there a time you feel tired of doing so? How did you overcome it?
3. What made you stop being part of God's work - personal problems, disappointments, lack of provisions, ambitions, other people, etc. Where do you get your strength and motivation to continue thriving to serve the Lord, His people and His Kingdom.
4. When was the last time you initiated an act of service to reflect God's love and His power? Share. If not, what is the Lord telling you today to do to be part of building His Kingdom?



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