



HOUSE GROUPS

HOUSE Groups: Discussion Questions:

Nehemiah 4:1-23

(Key Verse)

Nehemiah 4:17 *"Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon."*

(Nehemiah 4:1-3): **1** But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. **2** And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish--[stones] that are burned?" **3** Now Tobiah the Ammonite [was] beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up [on it], he will break down their stone wall."

Question: How do our weaker enemies seek to stop our work for the Lord through the use of intimidation, and mockery?

Question: Why do you think it was so infuriating to Sanballat that the Jews were rebuilding Jerusalem?

Question: How are we to combat discouragement in doing the work of the Lord?

(Nehemiah 4:4-6): **4** Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! **5** Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked [You] to anger before the builders. **6** So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its [height], for the people had a mind to work.

Question: Why do you believe Nehemiah immediately went to God with this problem, and whose problem was this really?

Question: What happened to the work that Nehemiah was supposed to accomplish when his enemies tried to hinder him?

Question: How does having a mind to work translate into actual work, and what can we do to get the job done before we even begin?

(Nehemiah 4:7-9): **7** Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, **8** and all of them conspired together to come [and] attack Jerusalem and create confusion. **9** Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.

Question: Why does it anger our enemy when our work for the Lord is being accomplished?

Question: How does the enemy seek to cause confusion, and division in order to disrupt the work of the Lord? What can we do to combat it?

(Nehemiah 4:10-15): **10** Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and [there is] so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall." **11** And our adversaries said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease." **12** So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, "From whatever place you turn, [they will be] upon us." **13** Therefore I positioned [men] behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. **14** And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses." **15** And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and [that] God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work.

Question: Why is removing the trash from our lives an imperative step to take before strengthening our homes?

Question: Why does the enemy just want you to stop the work you're doing for the Lord?

Question: What was the significance of Nehemiah shifting the attention from the enemy, and onto a great and awesome Lord?

(Nehemiah 4:16-18): **11** **16** So it was, from that time on, [that] half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and [wore] armor; and the leaders [were] behind all the house of Judah. **17** Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. **18** Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet [was] beside me.

Question: Why was it important for those participating in the work of the Lord to be ready to defend against the attacks from the enemy, and to not stop building?

(Nehemiah 4:19-23): **19** Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, "The work [is] great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. **20** "Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us." **21** So we labored in the work, and half of [the men] held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared. **22** At the same time I also said to the people, "Let each man and his servant stay at night in Jerusalem, that they may be our guard by night and a working party by day." **23** So neither I, my brethren, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me took off our clothes, [except] that everyone took them off for washing.

Question: Often we can be separated one from another by the busyness of our own schedules. How can we do a better job in coming to the aid of those who may need our help?

Question: When is it especially important for us to remember that our God will fight for us, and how does this help us overcome adversity and physical weakness?