



**HOUSE** GROUPS

HOUSE Groups: Discussion Questions:

Nehemiah 6:1-19

**(Key Verse)**

**Nehemiah 6:16** *And it happened, when all our enemies heard [of it], and all the nations around us saw [these things], that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.*

**(Nehemiah 6:1-9):** **1** Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and [that] there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates), **2** that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me harm. **3** So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I [am] doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?" **4** But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner. **5** Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand. **6** In it [was] written: It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, [that] you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king. **7** And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, "[There is] a king in Judah!" Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together. **8** Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart." **9** For they all [were trying to] make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done." Now therefore, [O God], strengthen my hands.

**Question:** How can the enemy use distractions as a way hindering the work God has called us to?

**Question:** What can we do to do a better job in recognizing distractions, and not letting them hinder our service to the Lord?

**Question:** Why was it so important for Nehemiah not to be lured in by the enemy to be concerned about what people were saying about him?

**Question:** How does it affect us when we hear rumors being spread about us, and what can we do to not allow them to hinder us in our walk with the Lord?

**Question:** When the opportunity presented itself, Nehemiah stood his ground upon the truth. How are we to handle confronting someone spreading lies?

**Read:** John 8:32

**(Nehemiah 6:10-14):** **10** Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who [was] a secret informer; and he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you." **11** And I said, "Should such a man as I flee? And who [is there] such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!" **12** Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced [this] prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. **13** For this reason he [was] hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so [that] they might have [cause] for an evil report, that they might reproach me. **14** My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid.

**Question:** Fear can be a very powerful foe. How can fear lead us to forsake the Lord, and the work He has called us to?

**Question:** How does fear often work hand-in-hand with the lies of the enemy?

**Question:** How are we to stand against the lies of enemy, and any fear seeking to ensnare our hearts?

**(Nehemiah 6:15-19):** **15** So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth [day] of Elul, in fifty-two days. **16** And it happened, when all our enemies heard [of it], and all the nations around us saw [these things], that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God. **17** Also in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and [the letters of] Tobiah came to them. **18** For many in Judah were pledged to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shechaniah the son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah. **19** Also they reported his good deeds before me, and reported my words to him. Tobiah sent letters to frighten me.

**Question:** Why is continuing in the work of the Lord despite lies, and fear coming against us so disheartening to the enemy?

**Question:** How does continuing in the work that we are called to display the power of God at work?

**Question:** Why is it so important for us as Christians to test the things that are being said in order to determine if they are from the Lord, and how do we do so?