

NEHEMIAH

Re: BUILD
Re: NEW
Re: FORM

Re: GROUP

STUDY GUIDE: ReConnaissance – Nehemiah 2:9–20

"When you follow God's calling, expect both divine direction and earthly opposition."

DEFINITION AND ILLUSTRATION FOR RECONNAISSANCE:

DEFINITION: A preliminary survey to gather information, especially before making strategic decisions.

ILLUSTRATION: (Insert a personal or historical story here—e.g., military scouting, planning a mission trip, or even preparing to buy a house by inspecting the neighborhood.)

1. What's a time you did your own form of "reconnaissance" before making a major decision?
2. Why is it wise to look before you leap when answering God's call?

I. ARRIVAL AND OPPOSITION (NEHEMIAH 2:9–10)

"...it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel."

A. ARRIVAL

3. Nehemiah's journey was long and hard. What sacrifices are you willing to make to follow God's call?
4. How do you see the hand of God in Nehemiah's preparation and planning?
5. Why does divine calling often require divine and earthly partnerships (like Nehemiah's escort)?

B. OPPOSITION

6. Why were Sanballat and Tobiah so threatened by Nehemiah's arrival?
7. Have you ever faced opposition for trying to do something God-honoring? How did you respond?
8. How can we guard against discouragement when people "feel threatened" by the good we're trying to do?

II. ASSESSMENT AND CHALLENGE (NEHEMIAH 2:11–17)

"I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem..."

A. ASSESSMENT OF THE CITY

9. Why did Nehemiah wait before revealing his plans? What does this teach us about wise leadership?
10. How is quiet observation and personal evaluation a vital step in serving or leading others?
11. What has God put in your heart to do for your community or church?

B. CHALLENGE TO THE PEOPLE

12. Why was it important for Nehemiah to point out the ruin and shame in Jerusalem?
13. How can truth-telling (even when painful) lead to revival?
14. What broken places around you need the kind of honest leadership Nehemiah displayed?
15. Why is it significant that Nehemiah said “we are in trouble” rather than “you are in trouble”?

III. INSPIRATION AND DISCOURAGEMENT (NEHEMIAH 2:18–20)

“Let us rise up and build.”

A. THE PEOPLE OF GOD WERE INSPIRED

16. What role did Nehemiah’s testimony play in inspiring the people to act?
17. When has someone else’s story of God’s faithfulness inspired you to take action?
18. What “God fingerprints” have you seen in your own life recently that you can share with others?

B. THE ENEMIES WERE DISCOURAGING

19. What tactics did the enemy use to try and stop the work? How does that reflect what the enemy still does today?
20. Why does spiritual progress often provoke spiritual resistance?
21. How can we be both spiritually aware and spiritually prepared for opposition?

C. THE ENEMIES WERE EXCLUDED

22. Why did Nehemiah clarify that Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem had no part in the work?
23. How do we draw lines when it comes to protecting God’s mission from those with harmful intentions?
24. What encouragement do you find in knowing that success doesn’t rest on us—but on the power of God?

WRAP-UP QUESTIONS: PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. What has God placed in your heart that you haven’t acted on yet?
2. What “reconnaissance” work do you need to do before taking your next step of faith?
3. Who is someone you could inspire by simply sharing your testimony of how God has moved in your life?
4. What’s your biggest takeaway from Nehemiah’s leadership style in this chapter?

MEMORY VERSE:

“The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build...” – Nehemiah 2:20