

NEHEMIAH



Re: BUILD
Re: NEW
Re: FORM

Re: GROUP

Discussion Guide: Recognizing the Opposition (Nehemiah 6:1-19)

I. Recognizing the Trap of Compromise

1. Why do you think Nehemiah refused to meet with Sanballat and his group, even though the request may have seemed reasonable on the surface?
2. In what ways do believers today face pressure to compromise their convictions in the name of “peace” or “tolerance”?
3. What made Daniel’s response in Babylon a godly example of wise compromise? How can we tell the difference between wise compromise and spiritual compromise?
4. According to Romans 12:1–2, what role does renewing our mind play in spiritual discernment? How are you currently being transformed by God’s Word?
5. What “plains of Ono” (tempting distractions) do you personally face that try to pull you away from the work God has given you?

II. Recognizing the Threat of Intimidation

1. Why do you think Sanballat’s threats became more public (an open letter) over time? What was his goal?
2. Have you ever faced slander or misrepresentation for doing what’s right? How did you respond, and what did you learn?
3. Nehemiah responds with prayer instead of panic (v.9). What can we learn from his pattern of immediately turning to God in times of pressure?
4. Proverbs 6 lists things God hates — many of which show up in Nehemiah 6. How does this passage help you discern false motives or spiritual manipulation?

5. How can walking in integrity give us confidence, even when others accuse us falsely?

III. Recognizing the Lies of Deception

1. Why was Shemaiah's suggestion so dangerous — even though it sounded "spiritual"?
2. How did Nehemiah discern that Shemaiah's prophecy was false? What principles from Scripture help us do the same today?
3. What does Nehemiah's refusal to enter the temple (v.11) teach us about boundaries, identity, and integrity?
4. What do you think is more dangerous to the Christian life: intimidation or deception? Why?
5. Can you recall a time when something that seemed "godly" turned out to be a trap? What helped you see the truth?

Conclusion & Application

1. Nehemiah responded to every tactic with wisdom and reliance on God's Word. What are some ways we can strengthen our discernment in today's world?
2. What are you currently doing to grow in your knowledge and love for God's Word?
3. Psalm 1 speaks of the person who meditates on God's law day and night. What practices can you adopt this week to help you delight more in the Word?
4. How might your life look different if you responded to every challenge with, "O God, strengthen my hands" like Nehemiah did?
5. What is one specific area in your life right now where you need discernment, boldness, or spiritual clarity?