

NEHEMIAH

Re: BUILD
Re: NEW
Re: FORM

Re: GROUP

STUDY GUIDE: Remember to Pray

Nehemiah 4:15 & Previous

Introduction & Context

1. The sermon began by reminding us to pray when insulted and plotted against. How easy or difficult do you find it to turn to prayer in the face of opposition? What helps or hinders you?
2. Last week's message also highlighted remembering God's goodness. How does remembering God's past faithfulness help us when facing present challenges or opposition in our "mission"?
3. Nehemiah's response to the report of the enemy's plans was to arm the people and remind them to "remember the Lord." What does it mean to "remember the Lord" in the midst of difficulty? How can we practically do this?

I. Stay on Mission (4:15-20)

A. When the Work is Hard:

4. The sermon states that when God's people follow His instructions, the enemy's plans are often frustrated. Can you think of a time in your life (or in a broader context) where you've seen this principle at work?
5. The question was posed: "What happens when God frustrates your plans?" Share a time when God's will seemed to "get in your way." How did you respond, and what did you learn from that experience?
6. Ephesians 1:9-10 speaks of God's plan to "unite all things in him." How does understanding this larger, restorative purpose of God impact how we view our individual "missions" or tasks?

B. Being Open to Adjustments:

7. Nehemiah and the people had to adjust their methods due to the enemy's threats. Can you think of a time when you had to adjust your approach to a task or goal due to unexpected resistance or a change in circumstances? What made that adjustment necessary?

8. The sermon highlights that while the mission remains the same, sometimes the methods must be adjusted. How can we discern when it's necessary to change our methods while staying true to the core mission God has given us? What are some potential dangers in being too rigid or too easily swayed in our approach?

C. Trusting for God's Protection:

9. Nehemiah reminded the people, "Our God will fight for us." The sermon then presents examples of both Israel fighting and God directly intervening (2 Chronicles 19). How do we discern when we are called to actively fight and when we are called to trust God to fight for us?

10. The question was asked: "If God fights for those who are walking with him, does it mean, if we are walking our own way, he will fight against us, or we will fight against him?" Discuss the implications of this question. How does our alignment with God's will affect our experience of His protection and support?

II. Stay Prepared (4:21-22)

11. The people in Nehemiah's time had to labor day and night under threat. How does this example challenge our understanding of comfort as the "highest goal of life"?

12. Nehemiah instructed the people and their servants to stay within Jerusalem for both work and guard duty. What does it look like for us to "stay prepared" in our own lives, even when the work feels hard and complicated?

13. The sermon connects this passage to 1 Peter 5:6-9, highlighting humility and casting our anxieties on God. How did the actions of Nehemiah and the people demonstrate humility and reliance on God?

14. Peter also urges us to be "sober-minded" and "watchful" against the adversary. How does the example of the builders working with a weapon in hand illustrate this spiritual vigilance?

Conclusion & Application

15. The quote from Saint Augustine encourages us to "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." How do you see this balance reflected in the passage from Nehemiah? How can we practically live out this balance in our own lives and missions?

16. What is one specific action or mindset shift that this sermon and discussion have inspired you to consider in your own life and your engagement with God's mission?

17. These questions aim to encourage both understanding of the scripture and personal application of its principles. Feel free to adapt or choose the questions that best suit your group or personal reflection.