

The book of



chapters

3 - 4

Day 1

1. Now let's look at Nehemiah 3. Nehemiah has stepped out in faith and obedience and has surveyed the problem. He has gathered a core group to help him undertake this enormous assignment. He begins by assigning men to their specific areas of work. Many people stepped up to help in this rebuilding process. Even with all the names mentioned, do you believe that was every man, woman, and child who had a part in rebuilding the walls?

2. There are always those who will remain unknown to the masses. My friend Jill is an unsung hero. Why? Because she simply takes care of things which need to be done. She does not wait for an assignment; she just pitches in and helps. Some of her work may be unseen here on earth but God misses none of it. He is El Roi; he is the God who sees. Is this the attitude of your heart toward the work of God going on around you?

3. Make a list of the ten gates mentioned in this chapter. (Some gates have more than one name)

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4. In John 10:9-11, Jesus said *"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

Do the various gates mentioned in Nehemiah 3 help you picture anything concerning our Savior?



Spend some time pondering other scripture truths you know about our precious Savior. Jot down any comparisons you come up with concerning these gates. Even if you do not come up with something for each gate it will be good to focus on our Savior.

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5. Let's think a bit more about gates. What is the purpose of a gate?

Why were the gates of Jerusalem of such great importance?

Our Good Shepherd longs for us to look to him, to follow him, to rely on him. When Jesus said, "*I am the gate,*", what do you believe he wanted us to know?

6. In the Bible, we often read of men who were seated at a gate. Read these verses and tell why these men were seated by the gate?

2 Samuel 18:24-31

1 Kings 22:10

Proverbs 31:23

7. A shepherd, in ancient times, would lead his sheep into a pen and then lay down across the opening. By laying here he became the gate. No one came in and none could leave without his knowledge. John 10:14-15 Jesus said "*I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.*" Read John 10:27-30, write down all the comforting truths we are told in these few verses.

Day 2

8. Let's get back to Nehemiah 3. Look back over the chapter at the various jobs mentioned. Most of these individuals were not builders by trade. What were their professions?

9. Nehemiah 3:5 mentions one group who refused to do the work. Who was this?

10. This lack of cooperation and disregard for duty is nothing new. There were those who for whatever reason would not do their part then, and there are men and women like this today. Who is the only person I need to be concerned about when it comes to carrying out the work of the Lord?

Who is the only person I am responsible and accountable for?

11. Worrying and fretting about what others are doing or not doing will only serve to distract us. People often read Philippians 4:13 alone. Today I would like us to read Philippians 4:12-13, these two verses tell us the secret to contentment. What is it?

12. Just like those who served God alongside Nehemiah, we should be linking arms and serving God with those he has brought into our circle of Christian friends. Read Hebrews 12:1-2. What are Believers instructed to do?

13. After all we have seen in the first three chapters, what is your take-away?

14. What have you seen of the character of our God?



15. What leadership tools have you gained or honed by your time thus far in Nehemiah?

Day 3

16. Who are the two men we read about in Nehemiah 4:1-3?

What can we learn about these men in these few verses?

17. My favorite verse in this chapter is Nehemiah 4:6. How are the builders described in this section?

18. Would you agree, how we do the work God has called us to do is just as important as what we do?

Read Psalm 1:1-6, what are some of the promises found in these six verses?

19. Sanballat and Tobiah were not a part of the building process. This is not the first time we have read about these two. Nehemiah 2:19 mentions their accusations and criticisms too. How did they describe the Israelites and their work?

20. There will always be those enemies of God's work who will criticize and attempt to demoralize. Often, they will imply our ideas for furthering the kingdom are too grandiose. They want us to believe we could never be effective carrying out kingdom purposes. Read Jeremiah 32:27b and Luke 1:37, what truth must we hold on to?



21. What do we see Nehemiah do in the face of this opposition? (Neh. 4:9)

22. Look at the psychological progression of aggression to God's work. Read Nehemiah 2:10, 2:19, 4:1,7 and 4:8. Write a sentence or two describing this progression.



23. Think of the last time you endured unwarranted opposition; how did you feel?

Despite the constant harassment, what do we see Nehemiah consistently do?

24. Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the king, not a military man. God, however, gave him wisdom as to how to post guards in such a way that he got the maximum out of every man. Read Nehemiah 4:9-14, what did Nehemiah do to encourage his people? Be specific.

25. There are some things worth fighting and sacrificing for; one is God and his work, the other is _____. Our answers may vary slightly when we fill in this blank.

26. Fill in the blanks Nehemiah 4:14 (NIV) "Don't be _____ of them. Remember the Lord, who is _____ and _____, and fight for your _____, your _____ and your _____, your _____ and your _____."

27. Nehemiah 4:14 states "do not be afraid." Wishing will not win the war of discouragement. We must replace negative worldly thoughts with heavenly truth. What must we remember if we are to stand strong and fight well, despite the danger?



28. It would do us good to keep our guard up each day. We, too, are stationed in a place of danger and we certainly have an enemy. We must be prepared to keep working, but we must also be on guard as to the schemes of our enemy. He never rests or gives up and even if he takes a break to bother someone else, he will return. Keep your “Who” in mind. Who are you fighting for?

29. Nehemiah 4:15 speaks of a temporary reprieve. What had God done on their behalf?

30. How has God equipped us for battles we face each day? (Ephesians 6:10-18)

31. Nehemiah had a man with him, poised and ready to blow the trumpet, and sound the alarm. Are you on guard and ready to sound the alarm when it comes to the spiritual battles against us each day?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. What truth do you find in these verses?

32. We do not need to sound an alarm every day. Some battles are personal, and God expects us to fight the good fight. But occasionally we need to sound an alarm and link arms together. Are you ready for the spiritual battles that will come our way?

Do you have people you can call on when the enemy attacks?

Are you this kind of friend for others?

33. Nehemiah 4:20 is another key verse in this chapter. We do not want to miss the importance of sounding the trumpet. We must never underestimate the importance of others rallying to our side when the battle is real. But who is our most important ally?

34. Nehemiah talks about the importance of the task they have undertaken. To what extreme did these men go to in verse 23?

35. I'm sure you have heard "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link." What do you believe is meant by this expression?

How does it apply to what we have seen this week in Nehemiah 3-4?

36. At the end of Nehemiah 2, this leader made a very bold statement, "The God of heaven will give us success." Is this just the ultimate of positive thinking or do you believe it is based on something of much greater substance? If so, what?

37. Has God ever given you a promise before the answer was anywhere in sight?

Did you share it with others involved?

Did they believe you and were they strengthened by it?

38. What do you know about the faithfulness of our God?

Do you know any scriptures that remind you of God's faithfulness? Share them in your group discussion.

39. It can be difficult to maintain this kind of spiritual readiness for long periods of time. Daniel was a beautiful example of one who prayed, fasted, and was involved in real spiritual warfare. Read Daniel 10:10-13. Do you remember what the angel said about him in Daniel 10:11?

How long had Daniel been praying while this terrible battle was going on between good and evil?

There is always a battle going on between the forces of good and evil. I have read the end of the book and good wins, but this will happen according to God's timeline, not ours.

40. What strength of character have you seen in Nehemiah?

41. What lessons have you learned from studying Nehemiah that you plan to implement as you carry out your call?

42. The purpose for studying God's word is so we can get to know Him. What qualities have you seen concerning our great God?

Biblical References

Day 1

Question 6 - 2 Samuel 18:24-31

²⁴ While David was sitting between the inner and outer gates, the watchman went up to the roof of the gateway by the wall. As he looked out, he saw a man running alone. ²⁵ The watchman called out to the king and reported it. The king said, “If he is alone, he must have good news.” And the runner came closer and closer. ²⁶ Then the watchman saw another runner, and he called down to the gatekeeper, “Look, another man running alone!” The king said, “He must be bringing good news, too.” ²⁷ The watchman said, “It seems to me that the first one runs like Ahimaaz son of Zadok.” “He’s a good man,” the king said. “He comes with good news.” ²⁸ Then Ahimaaz called out to the king, “All is well!” He bowed down before the king with his face to the ground and said, “Praise be to the LORD your God! He has delivered up those who lifted their hands against my lord the king.” ²⁹ The king asked, “Is the young man Absalom safe?” Ahimaaz answered, “I saw great confusion just as Joab was about to send the king’s servant and me, your servant, but I don’t know what it was.” ³⁰ The king said, “Stand aside and wait here.” So he stepped aside and stood there. ³¹ Then the Cushite arrived and said, “My lord the king, hear the good news! The LORD has vindicated you today by delivering you from the hand of all who rose up against you.”

1 Kings 22:10

Dressed in their royal robes, the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah were sitting on their thrones at the threshing floor by the entrance of the gate of Samaria, with all the prophets prophesying before them.

Proverbs 31:23

Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

Question 7 - John 10:27-30

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

Day 2

Question 11 - Philippians 4:12-13

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Question 12 - Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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Day 3

Question 18 - Psalm 1:1-6

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ²but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. ³That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. ⁴Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. ⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. ⁶For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Question 19 - Nehemiah 2:19

But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?”

Question 20 - Jeremiah 32:27b

“I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?”

Luke 1:37

For no word from God will ever fail.”

Question 22 - Nehemiah 2:10

When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

Nehemiah 2:19

But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?”

Day 4

Question 30 - Ephesians 6:10-18

The Armor of God

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you

may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Question 31 - Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: ¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. ¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹² Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Question 39 - Daniel 10:10-13



A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹ He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling. ¹² Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel.

Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia."

