

BUILDING UNITY

BRICK BY BRICK



STUDY GUIDE

CHAPTER 6

INTRODUCTION

Our last study ended with a challenge: to meet a need you saw around you this week through prayer, care, or sharing the Gospel. Share with one another what you did and how that went.

Nehemiah 6 brings us to some truly incredible moments and examples of how we can handle ourselves in the midst of distraction. Focused work on the wall continues to move forward despite the best efforts of the region's disapproving leaders. The tactics used by Israel's enemies shift from ridicule and threats to schemes and plots. Nehemiah is their clear target, as they aim to take out the leader in order to weaken both the project and the people. Let's dive into today's passage to see how Nehemiah handles this new form of opposition.

READ: NEHEMIAH 6:1-9

Discussion 1

1. **How important was it for Nehemiah to continue working on the wall?**
2. **What similarities do you see between Nehemiah 6:1-4 and Acts 6:1-4?**
3. **What tends to distract you from the work God has called you to?**

“I am doing a great work, and I cannot come down.” What an incredible statement that we as believers today need to take note of. God has created us new in Jesus for good works He has prepared for us to do (Eph. 2:10), and we need to be ready and focused to accomplish what He calls us to!

READ: NEHEMIAH 6:10-19

The plot to kill Nehemiah wasn't working, but there may have been another way to get him off the “ladder of leadership.” Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem spread rumors, sow seeds of doubt, and stir up trouble for Nehemiah. They talk of Jewish revolt, but Nehemiah isn't dancing to the tune they play. So they resort to a sneakier tactic—using influence and fear.

Shemaiah the shut-in was on Nehemiah's visitation list and had apparently been greatly influenced by the enemies of the project. He tried to persuade Nehemiah to abandon the work using fear-filled threats. The temple was a sacred and safe place where they could hide until the threat passed—but Nehemiah wasn't willing to go. He had a great work in front of him, and nothing would deter him from the task at hand.

Nehemiah's ability to stay focused despite distraction took a level of tenacity few possess. He truly was the right man for the job God had given him! Even if focus is not your strongest quality, we all need to grow in the discipline required to accomplish God's will, battle sin, and walk daily in a growing relationship with Jesus. God has given us all we need—if we will just step forward in faith.

Discussion 2

- 1. Read 2 Timothy 1:6-13. How does God provide for us to be focused and disciplined in our service for His kingdom?**
- 2. Is there a way that you have found to help grow your ability to focus on the task in front of you?**
- 3. Nehemiah did not let fear, threat, tricks, or gossip affect his focus on accomplishing God's will. How can we work together as a church to silence distraction and keep pushing forward?**

PRAY

Take time together to pray for the focus and discipline needed to accomplish God's will. Pray for yourself, each other and the church as a whole.