

# BUILDING UNITY

# BRICK BY BRICK



## STUDY GUIDE

### CHAPTER 13

### INTRODUCTION

Nehemiah Chapter 13 serves as a sobering epilogue to the story. After a season of revival, Nehemiah returns to Persia, and while he's away, the people begin slipping back into old patterns. When he returns, he finds corruption, compromise, and disobedience—especially in the temple, the Sabbath, and in relationships.

But Nehemiah doesn't give up. He confronts the issues head-on and takes bold steps to restore obedience. This chapter reminds us that sustaining spiritual renewal requires constant vigilance and ongoing leadership.

### READ: NEHEMIAH 13:1–14

#### Discussion 1

1. **Why do you think the people drifted back into disobedience so quickly after the covenant?**
2. **How do Nehemiah's actions show a commitment to godly standards?**

Nehemiah finds that Tobiah—one of the former enemies—has been given a room in the temple, and the Levites are being neglected. He throws out Tobiah's things, restores the offerings, and reestablishes proper order. His prayer in verse 14 shows his desire to honor God above all.

## **READ: NEHEMIAH 13:15-31**

Nehemiah rebukes the people for working and trading on the Sabbath. He also confronts those who married foreign women, which had led to spiritual confusion. In both cases, he restores boundaries that protect holiness.

### **Discussion 2**

- 1. Why was Nehemiah so serious about restoring Sabbath practices and purity in relationships?**
- 2. How do we sometimes compromise in similar ways today?**
- 3. What do you learn from Nehemiah's willingness to confront sin directly?**

## **CHALLENGE**

Spiritual drift is real. This week, take an honest inventory of areas where you've begun to compromise. Ask God to reveal any small cracks that could lead to bigger breaks. Then take one specific step to restore your devotion in that area.