



# Personal Study Guide

## ***Introduction***

The book of Nehemiah is the first-person account of one man who, by God's grace, led a city towards accomplishing a God-sized task! The wall around the city of Jerusalem had fallen and did not provide any protection, leaving the Israelites unprotected and vulnerable to enemies. Through the book of Nehemiah, we are reminded that no one can effectively build alone, this is the reason for the title of this series "Together". The book of Nehemiah is not just about the rebuilding of walls, this is a book about building lives, relationships, families, and the church on a solid foundation that honors God.

As you go through this guide, ask yourself "What is the state of the wall of my life today?" and through prayer ask God to give you the strength to rebuild any crumbling pieces in your "walls".

## ***How To Use This Guide***

This Guide contains a series of questions that correlate to the scriptures shared each week during the Sunday Sermon. You can work through this guide on your own or you can join with others to talk through each week what you have learned.

There are five questions each week, for personal study consider a rhythm that includes:

- Listening to the sermon
- Answering one question per day
- Spending the final day reading the passage for the next sermon.

## ***Additional Resources***

To learn more about Nehemiah or the various themes, consider the following books:

- NIV Application Commentary, Ezra-Nehemiah
- A Passion for Faithfulness, JI Packer
- Hand Me Another Brick, Chuck Swindoll
- Lead, Paul David Tripp (the COD ministry staff is reading this book together)
- Dangerous Prayer, Craig Groeschel
- Prayer, Timothy Keller

Together: A Study in Nehemiah  
Personal Study Questions  
Week of March 7, 2021: Nehemiah 1

- Who is Nehemiah? What role does he currently have? Think about your current role or position in life, how has God uniquely placed you to accomplish His work?
- Describe what Nehemiah learned about Jerusalem in verses 1-3. Why would this make him weep and mourn? Is there a cause, a tragedy, or injustice that causes you to weep and mourn? How can you help this cause?
- Read Nehemiah's prayer in verses 4-11 and describe Nehemiah's posture and/or attitude before God, cite verses for your answers. What is your posture or attitude before God in prayer? Is there an attitude you need to adjust or practice you need to instill within your prayer life?
- How does Nehemiah describe God? Write down your own words of adoration to God. In what ways do you integrate a time of praise into your daily walk with God? How could you grow in this discipline?
- What does Nehemiah confess in verses 6-7? Why do you think that confession was a part of his prayer? In what ways does confession deepen your prayer life with God? How does confession bring about change in your life? What are some attitudes, thoughts, or actions that you need to confess to God?

*Set aside special time this week dedicated to a time of praise and confession before God!*

Read Nehemiah 2

Together: A Study in Nehemiah  
Personal Study Questions  
Week of March 14, 2021: Nehemiah 2

- Describe the interaction between Nehemiah and King Artaxerxes. Why was Nehemiah afraid? How do you move forward in a moment when you are facing something that fills you with fear?
- What happens in verse 4? How does Nehemiah's response to the King's questions enable him to answer the king's questions boldly? What role does prayer and planning play in your ability to walk boldly? Is there a situation in your life where you need boldness? How can you begin to pray and plan for this situation?
- How does your view of God shape your plan? What qualities of God's character help you to make seemingly insurmountable plans? How can you trust that the plans you are making are of God and not of you?
- What is the response of Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem towards Nehemiah and his plans? Why do you think they responded this way? What do you learn through Nehemiah's response to them in verse 20? What is your response when conflict arises in a work you discern is from God?
- What are the fears that are keeping you from moving forward in a vision God has for your life? How can you keep from having these fears sway you off track?

*Spend time this week dreaming with God and asking him to give you boldness towards a God-size vision.*

Read Nehemiah 3

Together: A Study in Nehemiah  
Personal Study Questions  
Week of March 21, 2021: Nehemiah 3

- Read all of Chapter 3, make a list of observations that you have of this passage. What do you view of the overall purpose for including this information? Choose a “community” that you belong to and make a list of the people and what you believe each of them contributes to the team.
- In verse 1 what is the significance of the Priests beginning the work? What does this tell us about effective leadership? Consider an area of your life in which you are a leader, how does the role of the priests encourage you in how you lead?
- What are the talents or gifts that you bring to a team, a community or group? How has God used your talents to further the work of His Kingdom?
- Through this passage what do you learn about working as part of a team that is seeking to fulfill God’s vision? What enables a team to have an impact on the kingdom of God? What can destroy a team?
- Step back and consider with a fresh insight, what team is God asking for you to contribute your talents to? What gives you apprehension towards serving in this way? How can God conquer that apprehension?

*Pray and ask God to show you the role you are to play in the Church or in the community and for the courage to take that step to engage.*

Read Nehemiah 4

Together: A Study in Nehemiah  
Personal Study Questions  
Week of March 28, 2021: Nehemiah 4

- Read through Nehemiah 4 and describe the opposition and how they sought to disrupt the rebuilding of the wall. What negative impact does opposition have on you? Identify an area in your life right now in which you are facing opposition and describe the impact it is having on you.
- Identify the variety of ways that Nehemiah faces the opposition found within chapter 4? How does Nehemiah's response to the conflict encourage you? Using Nehemiah's example how can you face the opposition in your life?
- What role does vision play in your ability to overcome opposition? What is a vision of your life that allows you to face challenges? If you serve in the church or in the community, what is the vision that helps you to overcome the struggles that come with serving?
- Spiritual warfare plays a role in thwarting kingdom building efforts. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and based on this passage write out how you can fight against the schemes of the devil.
- When facing times of opposition, how do you discern when it is wisdom to move on or when it is wisdom to stand firm? How will your walk with God help you? How can the people of God serve as an encouragement to you?

*Spend time this week praying through an opposition that you are facing (or maybe an opposition that someone you know is facing).*

Read Nehemiah 5.

*There will be a break in this study as we celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 4, 2021.*

Together: A Study in Nehemiah  
Personal Study Questions  
Week of April 11, 2021: Nehemiah 5

- Describe the injustice that Nehemiah sees, why does this break his heart? Make a list of injustices that you see around you that break your heart?
- What is Nehemiah's response to the injustices in the community? Nehemiah was compelled to action, but what prevents people from acting to remedy injustices? How do we avoid complacency in this realm?
- In verses 12-13 what prompted the nobles and officials to return the money to the people? Why was making a promise before God an important step in their restitution? Is there an area of your life that you need to correct? What first step can you take to fix this today?
- Describe how Nehemiah led with integrity in verses 4-19. What impact does the integrity or lack of integrity of a leader have upon the people? What impact does your integrity have upon those around you? Identify the areas of your integrity that need some repair work.
- Going back to the first question for this week, identify one injustice, pray about this injustice, and develop a plan to take one step in helping to fight this injustice.

*Pray this week for God to open your eyes to injustice and to give you strength to fight against it!*

Read Nehemiah 6

Together: A Study in Nehemiah  
Personal Study Questions  
Week of April 18, 2021: Nehemiah 6

- In verses 1-4 what enables Nehemiah to persevere in his work despite the opposition? Why do you think Nehemiah chooses not to meet with the opposition to try to fix the situation? What role did Nehemiah's passion for his mission give him clarity?
- What is the mission or calling that God has given you in your life? What opposition to this calling do you face? Prayerfully identify one scripture that will remind you of your calling.
- Considering verses 5-9 what do you learn about how to handle someone attacking your motive and character? What weakens our ability to stand firm in adversity? What strengthens it?
- How did Nehemiah discern that Shemaiah's invitation to the temple was a trap? The opposition used fear to corner Nehemiah, what fears prevent you from moving forward in your work for the Lord? How can you overcome fear and walk courageously?
- Opposition comes when God-sized work is being done! What God-size vision does God have for your life or our church? What opposition will be faced? What can we do today that will enable us to stay focused on vision and not be swayed?

*Pray and ask God to give you a "God-sized" vision for your life or in the life of our church.*

Read Nehemiah 7-8



*We will take a break from this study during the COD Missions Conference on 4/25-5/2/2021.*

Together: A Study in Nehemiah  
Personal Study Questions  
Week of May 9, 2021: Nehemiah 8

- How would you define the word revival? What images does this word conjure up in your mind? What area of your life needs a revival? How can you make that happen?
- Why were the people hungry to hear the Word of God? What was the response of the people to hearing the Word in verse 6? What is your response to the Word?
- The people were grieved in verses 9-12 for their transgressions had been brought to light, how did Nehemiah encourage them? Read Hebrews 4:12-13, how does the Word pierce your soul? What is God asking of you in those moments?
- Why did the Israelites construct the booths? How does obedience to the Word deepen your walk with God? Is there an area of your life in which God is asking you to obey or is calling out your disobedience? What can you do today to further align your life with his will?
- Describe the joy that was felt among the people during this time? What does the phrase 'the joy of the Lord is your strength' mean? How is your walk with God filled with joy? Does anything need to change to bring about revival in your walk?

*Pray and ask God to bring about a revival in your heart.*

Read Nehemiah 9-10

Together: A Study in Nehemiah  
Personal Study Questions  
Week of May 16, 2021: Nehemiah 9-10

- Describe the scene that is depicted in 9:1-3, what do you observe and why are they doing this? How can you prepare for a time before the Lord in worship or private prayer time?
- What are the attributes of God that you adore? What attributes of God make you stand in awe of Him? How do you praise God?
- Take some time to write down a history of the faithfulness of God in your life and offer Him thanksgiving.
- Read 1 John 1:8-9. Write down or spend time in prayer confessing the sin in your life to God and ask for forgiveness. Why is this an important discipline to incorporate into your prayer life?
- In chapter 10 we see the unity of a community committing their lives to the Lord. What role does the community of God's people play in your life? How is God asking you to actively engage into the community of His people? Who do you need to invite into community?

*Pray prayers of thanksgiving this week for how God has worked and will work in your life.*

Read Nehemiah 11-12

Together: A Study in Nehemiah  
Personal Study Questions  
Week of May 23, 2021: Nehemiah 12

- Describe the scene of celebration at the dedication of the wall. Why was this dedication important to the people? How do you or can you celebrate God moving in your life?
- How does this scene in Nehemiah 12 inspire you to worship God filled with a boisterous joy? What keeps you from fully engaging in worship? How can you overcome this?
- Why was purification part of this ceremony? How does this relate to us today?
- Is there a work that you are doing that you want to dedicate to the Lord? What difference would this dedication have on your ability to accomplish this work?
- How can you incorporate praise and thanksgiving into your life and outside of a proper worship service? How can you praise God through your day? What difference would praise, and worship make through trials? How can you celebrate God moving in your life more?

*Spend time this week praying words of praise and worship to God.*

Read Nehemiah 13

## Together: A Study in Nehemiah

### Personal Study Questions

May 30, 2021: Nehemiah 13 and study wrap-up

- Describe how Jerusalem went back to their “old ways”. How does a nation go from revival to easing back into a disobedient pattern? What caution does that give us?
- How did Nehemiah help to reform the people of their disobedient ways? What role does the community of God play in helping to hold one another accountable? Who helps hold you accountable in your faith and moral living?
- What do you respect most about Nehemiah as you studied this book of the Bible? What practice, attitude, or action would you like to change because of this study?
- What have you learned or discovered about God through your time in this book? How has that truth changed your relationship with Him?
- Is there a place that God is calling you to go? What’s your first step?

*Pray and ask God to reveal the work He is calling you to participate in!*