

RALLY DAY 2026

"TIME TO RISE UP AND BUILD"

NEHEMIAH

Big Idea: God accomplishes great things when His people work together.

I. SEE THE NEED [Nehemiah 2:11-15]

Application: Maybe the question isn't:
"What does our church need?"
Maybe the better question is:
"Who needs us?"

II. SHARE THE VISION [Nehemiah 2:16-18]

- [1] Nehemiah had a burden. - Now they had a burden.
- [2] Nehemiah had a vision. - Now they had a vision.
- [3] Nehemiah had seen what God could do. -
Now the people were ready to believe it too.

Application: A healthy church isn't built around one person's vision. It's a church where God's people catch God's vision and say, "What part can I play?"

III. BUILD TOGETHER [Nehemiah 4:6, 6:1-9]

Application: Whatever part you are called to play:
Bring it.

INSIGHT: HOW TO HANDLE OPPOSITION

QUESTION: WHAT PART CAN I PLAY?

Question, Reading, Challenge, and Prayer

Question: Read Nehemiah 2:11-20 and pay attention to how Nehemiah responded when he saw the broken walls of Jerusalem. Ask yourself: What is God asking me to see, and where is He asking me to get involved?

Reading: Read Nehemiah 4:1-6. Observe how Nehemiah moved from seeing the need, to sharing the vision, to calling God's people to work together. Consider what God might want to build through you and your church family.

Challenge: Identify one area where God may be calling you to move from being a spectator to becoming a participant. This week, take one specific step – pray, serve, encourage, invite, give, or simply show up—and remind yourself: "The wall gets built when everybody brings what God has given them."

Prayer: Ask God to open our eyes to the needs around us, give us willing hearts to serve, and help us rise up and build together.

[Nehemiah 2:11-18] So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. ¹² Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. ¹³ I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down [and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. ¹⁴ Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. ¹⁵ Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. ¹⁶ And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work. ¹⁷ Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." [Psalm 44:13, 79:4, Jeremiah 24:9, Ezekiel 5:14-15, 22:4] ¹⁸ And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

[Nehemiah 4:6] So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

[Nehemiah 6:1-9] Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), ² Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm. ³ And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" ⁴ And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner. ⁵ In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. ⁶ In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall. And according to these reports you wish to become their king. ⁷ And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, 'There is a king in Judah.' And now the king will hear of these reports. So now come and let us take counsel together." ⁸ Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind." ⁹ For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands

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Small Group Discussion Questions

1. **SEE THE NEED.** Read Nehemiah 2:11-15. Nehemiah took time to inspect the broken walls before taking action. What do you think God might want us to "see" in our church, community, or the people around us?
2. **FROM BURDEN TO VISION.** Read Nehemiah 2:17-18. Nehemiah turned his personal burden into a shared vision. What is the difference between having a personal concern and helping others see what God may want to do through it?
3. **CATCHING THE VISION.** Read Nehemiah 2:18-20. The people responded to Nehemiah's vision by saying, "Let us rise up and build." What do you think helped the people move from simply hearing Nehemiah's vision to personally owning it?
4. **PARTICIPATING, NOT SPECTATING.** Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Paul describes the church as one body with many different parts. Everyone has a role to play. What are some ways people can become spectators rather than participants in the church? What does it look like for us to actively find our place in the mission?
5. **STAYING FOCUSED.** Read Nehemiah 6:1-9. Nehemiah faced distraction, intimidation, and criticism, but he refused to come down from the work God had given him. What kinds of distractions, discouragement, or criticism can keep us from serving God faithfully? How can we respond like Nehemiah?
6. **FINDING YOUR PLACE.** Read Nehemiah 4:6. As we begin this ministry year, what might God be asking you to do? Where could you use your gifts, time, or influence to help build what God is doing?

Closing Question

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What would it look like for our group to move from simply talking about God's work to actually doing it together?