

# *Great Commission*



Baptist Church

*Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher*



**A Book of Rebuilding For a  
New Beginning  
Life Group Curriculum  
January - March 2021**

**The Book of Psalms**  
**January - March 2021**

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**Lesson I****Date:** January 3, 2021**Lesson Scriptures:****Overview of a Favorite Psalm**

Choose a Psalm that has really helped you appreciate the writings of these psalmist over this past year of 2020 and discuss in class. A Psalm that you did not know, but gained better understanding of the Psalm, through this journey of the Psalms.

**Lesson II**

**Date:** January 10, 2021

**Lesson Scriptures:** Nehemiah 1: 1-11

**Does Anybody Really Care?**

**Lesson Aim:** The student will learn how to have compassion and be concerned about those who are in need.

**Open It**

1. Why How do you react when you hear bad news about a friend?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. If you were going through a painful experience, what would you want your friends to do for you?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Explore It**

1. When did the events of this passage take place?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What report did Hanani and his men give to Nehemiah?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Nehemiah react to the news about Jerusalem and the exiles?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did Nehemiah describe God in his prayer?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What promise of the Lord could the Israelites claim, according to Nehemiah?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Get It**

1. What admirable traits do you see demonstrated by Nehemiah?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Nehemiah's prayer accomplish?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why does God want Christians to pray?
- 

4. What are the benefits of focusing on the attributes of God?
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### **Apply It**

1. How can you remind yourself this week to turn to God in prayer when you experience disappointment?
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2. How do you plan to react differently to setbacks from now on?
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**Summary:** Nehemiah held the important position of cupbearer to the king of Persia in the mid-fifth century B.C. during the reign of Artaxerxes I (465-424 B.C.). Nehemiah one day received a report from several men who had come from Judah. One of them was his own brother, Hanani; later Nehemiah appointed him to a high position in Jerusalem. This report came in the month of Kislev, that is, November-December in the 20th year of Artaxerxes the king. Artaxerxes, Persia's sixth king, began reigning in 464 B.C., so this year was 444.\*

The report instantly depressed Nehemiah. It pertained to his people and their land. The Jews in Judah (a province of Persia) were greatly troubled and disgraced, and Jerusalem's wall was broken down and its gates had been burned. This left the city defenseless against enemy attacks. The people had been rebuilding the walls (Ezra 4:12) but were stopped by Artaxerxes who was pressured by some Samaritans and Rehum, the commanding officer, who may have been a Persian responsible to Artaxerxes (Ezra 4:17-23). Nehemiah faced a situation he knew he could not solve by himself. But he also knew that with God all things are possible (cf. Jer. 32:17). His sovereignty, and the words "great and awesome" are mindful of His power and majesty. Surely such a God could answer Nehemiah's prayer. On Jerusalem as a place where God would cause His name to dwell, Since the Jews belonged to God (Your servants and Your people; cf. Deut 9:29) and He had redeemed them, it was reasonable that God should respond to Nehemiah's prayer on their behalf, keeping His "covenant of love"(vs. 5). Speaking for fellow Jews who revered God's name (i.e., honored His revealed character), Nehemiah asked that He hear their prayer.\* A favorable relationship with the king could open the door for his petition. Isn't it amazing that the closer you get to the Lord and have daily devotion with him, you begin to pick up some of his characteristics of being compassioned and concerned for other people who are in need.

**Lesson III**

**Date:** January 17, 2021

**Lesson Scriptures:** Nehemiah 2: 1-10

**Nehemiah's Commission to Rebuild Jerusalem**

**Lesson Aim:** The student will learn to talk to God about your problems and he will give you the answer, to move forward.

**Open It**

1. How would you go about asking a big favor of a boss or other influential person?

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2. What techniques do people often use to cope with fear?

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**Explore It**

1. At what time did this story take place?

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2. Why was Nehemiah able to meet with the king?

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3. What did the king ask Nehemiah?

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4. What did Nehemiah have to overcome to give the king an honest answer?

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5. What did Nehemiah do before he told the king what he wanted?

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6. Who was disturbed by Nehemiah's actions? Why?

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### Get It

1. How would you describe Nehemiah's actions in this situation?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. To you what were Nehemiah's most admirable traits?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Nehemiah demonstrate his dependence on God?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How can you handle differently the challenges you face in light of Nehemiah's example?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Apply It

1. What specific problem do you want to confront with greater courage this week?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary:** Bold and righteous leaders are needed today. Being just bold is not enough, because uncontrolled boldness can violate the rights of people, dominating and trampling them under foot. And being just righteous is not enough, because without initiative and the courage to follow through with ideas and projects, nothing is accomplished. So, while boldness is needed by leaders, their boldness must be controlled by righteousness. A leader must know right from wrong and know what is right and know the right thing to do. It was three or four months before Nehemiah's faith was rewarded in a most unexpected way. One day when he was serving wine... to the king, his face betrayed his sorrow of heart. The king's question brought on a wave of fear, for sadness was not allowed in the royal presence (Est. 4:2). Nehemiah's prayerful dependence upon the Lord was not in vain. Not only did the king give him what he requested, he also made him governor of Judah. Artaxerxes' decree fulfilled the word of the Lord to Daniel (Dan. 9:25), even as the earlier decree of Cyrus had fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah (Jer. 29:10; Ezra 1).<sup>\*</sup> In answer to the king's question, Nehemiah told him how long he expected to be away. As it turned out, Nehemiah was away from Persia for at least twelve years. In all of this Nehemiah acknowledged the good hand of God upon him. It is amazing when you have experienced this act of kindness by God. You pray and ask for something and when he answers your prayer, he has given you more than what you had asked for.

**Lesson IV**

**Date:** January 24, 2021

**Lesson Scriptures:** Nehemiah 2:11-20

**Nehemiah’s Inspection of the Walls**

**Lesson Aim:** The student will learn the process of successful planning when we include God in our planning and preparation.

**Open It**

1. How do people usually respond to criticism?

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2. How do you usually respond to criticism?

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**Explore It**

1. What did Nehemiah do when he first arrived in Jerusalem?

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2. From where did Nehemiah receive his motivation to rebuild Jerusalem?

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3. What did Nehemiah find in his inspection of the city?

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4. How did the Jews respond to Nehemiah?

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5. How did Nehemiah respond to his critics?

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**Get It**

1. What made Nehemiah a good leader?

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2. Why do you think Nehemiah surveyed the city himself before he approached the Jews with his plan?

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3. What have you learned from Nehemiah about responding to criticism?

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4. How can Christians protect themselves from developing a critical attitude?

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5. How do you think God wants you to deal with the challenges and problems you face?

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### **Apply It**

1. What action can you take this week to improve your leadership at your job or in your home?

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**Summary:** Nehemiah's journey to Jerusalem and all his preparations were for the purpose of rebuilding the city and its walls. The journey from the capital Susa to Jerusalem would have taken about two to three months. On arriving in Jerusalem, Nehemiah rested for three days. The trip had been exhausting, so he did just what many of us would do: he took care of his body and gave it the necessary rest (Mk 6:31). In all probability, Nehemiah used this time for prayer, planning, and getting acquainted with some of the people in the city.\*

At the end of the three days' rest, Nehemiah secretly inspected the walls at night (vv.12-16). As a wise planner and builder, he knew the need for surveying, inspecting, and evaluating the awesome task that lay before him. This he needed to do before he revealed his plans and attempted to motivate the people to join him in the awesome task ahead. Taking only a few trusted men and one horse, he crept out through the Valley Gate, past the Serpent or Jackal Well and the Dung Gate (vv.12-13). Nehemiah then went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, where he had to stop following the wall because of the huge mound of rubble from Jerusalem's earlier destruction (v.14). He then turned and rode through the Kidron Valley where he could look up at the wall from a distance (v.15). At some point, he was either unable to continue his inspection due to so much rubble or, feeling that he had seen enough, made the decision to return. Note the emphasis upon the secrecy of Nehemiah's inspection: he conducted his investigation without the knowledge of any of the leadership. This was necessary until he could formulate the details of his plans (v.16). Once Nehemiah completed his plans, he assembled and motivated the people to action (v.17).\* The assembled group included all the Jews of Jerusalem and the surrounding territory, which would have included the common people, the landowners or farmers, the business owners, the religious and political leaders—all who would be contributing to the work of rebuilding the city and its walls. When Nehemiah gave his challenge, the people's negative feelings became positive. Despair turned to hope. They responded and began the rebuilding process. In 2021, this is a good time to start rebuilding those ruins that 2020 left in our lives and the only way we can do it, is to look to God.

**Lesson V**

**Date:** January 31, 2021

**Lesson Scriptures:** Nehemiah 3: 1-14

**Workers on the North and West Wall**

**Lesson Aim:** The student will learn that committing to serve the Lord will require all of us to work together regardless of our differences.

**Open It**

1. When have you most enjoyed working with a team of people?

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**Explore It**

1. How did the priests set the example for all the Israelites?

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2. What project were the Israelites working on?

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3. What criticism was leveled at the men of Tekoa?

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4. Who were rebuilding side by side in our lesson?

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**Get It**

1. Why do you think the people of Jerusalem were so committed to rebuilding the city walls?

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2. What effect do you think this accomplishment had on the people involved?

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3. What can we learn from the priests' example in this situation?

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4. Why did the nobles of Tekoa refuse to help with the work?
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### **Apply It**

1. What steps can you take this week to depend on God and others to help you face the challenges in your life? .
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**Summary:** A task so enormous as rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, especially under adverse conditions, called for unusual organizational effort. The uniqueness of Nehemiah's plan is evident in this chapter. Several aspects of his delegation of the work are evident.\*

He assigned everyone a specific place to work. This coordination stands out in the phrases "next to him," "next to them," "next to that," "the next section," "beside him," and "beyond them," which occur 28 times in this chapter. The priests had as co-laborers men from Jericho, as well as Zaccur ben Imri and his kinsmen. Again, it is ironic that the priests are associated with Jericho in both the destruction and reconstruction of walls. When their portion was done, the priests "sanctified" or dedicated their work to the Lord, a statement that occurs in the narrative about only this phase of the rebuilding (a different word, [HEB #2700], occurs in 12:27 to speak of the consecration of the whole project).\*

The fish gate was likely located along the northern wall, though neither its location nor any of the other features described here can be certain because of the repeated destruction and rebuilding of the city walls subsequently (see 2:12-16). Very possibly, the fish gate was south of the present-day Damascus Gate, a location which to this very day serves as a place of merchandising, including the sale of fish. Four families participated in this part of the project: those of Hassenaah, Meremoth, Meshullam and Zadok, along with some citizens of the Judean village of Tekoa, ten miles south of Bethlehem and the home of the prophet Amos (Neh 3:5; cf. Amos 1:1). These unnamed persons worked but without the strong support of their leaders who refused to comply fully with Nehemiah's instructions. The fourth gate, that is, the valley gate, refers to one overlooking the Tyropoeon Valley west of Jerusalem (cf. 2:13). For the first time, there is some indication of the massiveness of the task. A certain Hanun and people from the town of Zanoah by themselves took on and completed the assignment of erecting 1000 cubits (i.e., about 500 yards) of wall between the valley gate and the next one south, the dung gate.\*

## Lesson VI

Date: February 7, 2021

Lesson Scriptures: Nehemiah 3: 15-32

### Workers On The East Wall

**Lesson Aim:** The student will learn that in everything we do, we should do it to the glory of the Lord.

#### Open It

1. What are the benefits of teamwork?

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#### Explore It

1. What kinds of people were involved in rebuilding Jerusalem?

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2. What does the wide spectrum of people involved reveal about the Israelites' commitment to this project?

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3. Keeping in mind the practical reason for the restoration of the city, why was most of the rebuilding focused on the gates?

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4. Why did the common people of Tekoa have to do double-duty work in rebuilding the walls of the city?

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#### Get It

1. What does this passage reveal about the best way to accomplish an overwhelming task?

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2. What overwhelming challenge do you face?

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3. How can you depend more on the Lord's help to accomplish the work He has given you to do?
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4. What should we do whenever we finish a big project or experience success
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### **Apply It**

1. How could you help a friend with a problem or difficult situation he or she is facing?
- 

**Summary:** The work on the east wall included the construction of five gates, named in the Scripture and outline below. However, the important thing to note is the hard, diligent labor of the workers. They were filled with a very special zeal for the task assigned them. One worker in particular, Baruch, was known for his zeal and diligence (v.20). Several other workers are said to have built two sections of the wall, suggesting that they also had a very special zeal for the work (21, 27). The hard, diligent labor of these workers is a dynamic example for us. In undertaking any task we must be filled with a zeal to do our best. Before the Lord, only our best effort is acceptable. Think how much could be achieved throughout the world if laziness and inexcusable absences were eliminated from the workplace. How much more could be accomplished and achieved in every area of life if we worked hard in the areas for which we are responsible. Hard, diligent work—a heart filled with zeal for simply being responsible and for doing all things well—is the duty of every human being. (Prov. 13:4; Rom. 12:11).\*

Excavated section of the wall built by Nehemiah



Aim and Summary by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Lesson VII**

**Date:** February 14, 2021

**Lesson Scriptures:** Nehemiah 4: 1-9

**Nehemiah’s Reaction to Opposition**

**Lesson Aim:** The student will learn the right way to respond to criticism or persecution.

**Open It**

1. Why do you think some people get upset when they see others succeed?

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**Explore It**

1. Why did Sanballat become angry with the Jews?

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2. How did Sanballat treat the Jews?

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3. What did Sanballat and Tobiah do to discourage the Jews from rebuilding the city walls?

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4. How did Nehemiah respond to the taunts of his enemies?

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5. What did Israel’s enemies do when they heard of Israel’s success in rebuilding Jerusalem’s walls?

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**Get It**

1. What do you admire about the Israelites in this incident?

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2. What kinds of events, opposition, or setbacks most discourage you?

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3. How does God want us to deal with discouragement?

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4. How should we respond to negative events or criticism from others?

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### **Apply It**

1. What specific steps could you take this week to renew your commitment to a project you believe is important to accomplish?

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**Summary:** Sanballat was displeased when he heard that Nehemiah had returned to Jerusalem to help the Jews. Sanballat, however, did not know of God's interest in His people. Sanballat's displeasure turned to intense anger (vs. 1 and 7). So, with his associates, including Tobiah and Geshem, and in the presence of Samaritan soldiers, Sanballat ridiculed the Jews. He accused them of rebelling against King Artaxerxes (2:19) and by a series of questions he suggested they were incapable of completing the project (4:2).<sup>\*</sup> Calling them feeble he asked if they would offer sacrifices. That is, could they possibly complete the walls so that they could then give sacrifices of thanksgiving? The question about finishing in a day suggests that the Jews did not know what they were undertaking. And how, Sanballat asked, could they use burned, weakened bricks from the heaps of debris? Tobiah the Ammonite, standing nearby, also tried to discourage the Jews. Ridiculing them, he said they were so inept in their work that a fox, weighing only a few pounds, would break it down by merely climbing up on it. Some of us with little opposition would give up. Those who are successful in rebuilding is known to have YAC. This acronym means yard after contact. In football, when the opposition hits the player that is running the ball, he doesn't throw the ball down and quit. He doesn't cave in, crumble to the ground, then stroll back to the huddle. The player with the ball, keeps his legs moving forward toward the goal line. The great runners make most of their yards after contact. Some of us never rebuild because in life, as soon as we meet opposition, soon as we get hit, we quit. But rebuilders are those that keep moving forward regardless of the opposition, regardless of how hard they get hit. It's the YAC (yards after contact) that matters most in life, not just in football. YAC is the ability to keep on going when we are confronted with obstacles and opposition in conflict. The corporate strategy of Judah's enemies was met by a corporate response. Again, the people (we) prayed for help, and then added action to their prayers by posting a guard round the clock to meet this threat. Not only should we pray, but we ought to put some actions behind our prayers, knowing that our God will hear us and answer.

## Lesson VIII

Date: February 21, 2021

Lesson Scriptures: Nehemiah 4: 10-23

### Overcoming with God's Power

**Lesson Aim:** We will learn to appreciate as believers, how we must encourage each other when we face opposition and to remember God is great and awesome. Moreover, God can help us overcome all our adversity.

#### Open It

1. When has jealousy ever affected you?

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2. In what situations is competition good?

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#### Explore It

1. What did Nehemiah do to encourage the Israelites and protect them from their enemies?

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2. How were the Jews able to return to their work of rebuilding the city walls?

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3. Who frustrated the plotting of Israel's enemies?

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4. What sacrifices did the people have to make because of the threats of their enemies?

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5. In what specific ways did Nehemiah and the Israelites show commitment to this project?

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### Get It

1. When have you ever felt opposition from other people when you have done what you thought was morally right?
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2. What practical steps could you take the next time you feel opposition from others for doing what is right?
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3. How does God respond to the diligence of His people?
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4. How have you seen the Lord fight for you?
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### Apply It

1. How can you encourage a friend or family member who you know is discouraged?
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**Summary:** Although God assigns believers a ministry task, it does not exclude plots that will challenge us with taunts and threats. However, we see in the lesson Nehemiah reminds us; God has given us our assignments. For this reason, ministry leaders must be deliberate in directing the people God has prepared to help in Kingdom building by redirecting their focus from circumstances to God's power. We see in our lesson with Nehemiah's strategy; his hope was in God. As a result, he helped the community realize that ministry requires confidence in the power and ability of God. Therefore, we see commitment, not to Nehemiah but God. When God has crucial public work, He never fails to raise instruments (i.e., believers) to accomplish the task. The lesson demonstrates that preparedness is what God can use.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Aim & Summary Anonymous writer

**Lesson IX**

**Date:** February 28, 2021

**Lesson Scriptures:** Nehemiah 5: 1-9

**Handling Problems God's Way Part 1**

**Lesson Aim:** We will learn how to deal with socio-economic problems when it arrives in the midst of believers. Birth out of social standing or class of individuals, a matter that creates domestic difficulties in our society.

**Open It**

1. What do you think are some of the most pressing social problems today?

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**Explore It**

1. What is the conflict between some of the Jews at the beginning of this story?

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2. What caused the Israelites' problems?

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3. How did Nehemiah react to the Israelites' complaints?

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4. What did Nehemiah do before he took any action?

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5. Why were the actions of the officials wrong?

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### Get It

1. In what ways is Nehemiah a role model for us today?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does it mean to be devoted to the work God has given us, as was Nehemiah?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think Nehemiah sacrificed what he rightfully deserved as a governor?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Apply It

1. What concrete action could you take this week to help solve a social problem?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary:** In our lesson, we see that the exercise of authority or power in a burdensome, cruel, or unjust manner will produce an irritating life and can lead a society to sink into a grievous evil. Consequently, the less fortunate may suffer from the greed of the wealthy. In our lesson, we see life struggles for the working class can cause many to resort to uncharacteristic actions, and the consequences bring about other matters unbearable to overcome. Nevertheless, we see when referencing scripture, it helps to resolve issues. On the other hand, we cannot ignore complaints; if unattended, we see it leads to hardship for the less fortunate. The lesson suggests when our communities face difficulty from famine. Our communities should look unto believers in authority because it is no justification for injustice and inhumane behavior.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Aim & Summary Anonymous writer

**Lesson X**

**Date:** March 7, 2021

**Lesson Scriptures:** Nehemiah 5: 10-19

**Handling Problems God's Way Part 2**

**Lesson Aim:** The objective is to provide a stage for believers to see how Godly influential representation should govern societies. Everything they do is a step towards making the vision a reality while maintaining cordial and harmonious relations.

**Open It**

1. What are some reasons people choose not to get involved in social issues?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How do you feel when solicitors ask you to give your time or money to charity?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Explore It**

1. How did the officials respond to Nehemiah's accusations? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Nehemiah insure that the officials would keep their promise?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In what ways was Nehemiah different from other officials?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What prevented Nehemiah from acting the same way the other officials did?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did Nehemiah want in return for his generosity to the Israelites?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Get It**

1. What should motivate us to get involved in social issues?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How do you think Christians should be involved in social issues?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What social injustice concerns you?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How would you like to contribute to solving a particular social problem that concerns you?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Apply It**

1. What concrete action could you take this week to help solve a social problem?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What steps could you take this week to open your lines of communication with God?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary:** The lesson provides insight on how collectively societies with Godly representatives can openly acknowledge the unfair issues among communities. Furthermore, we learn from the representatives we must agree accountability is essential, and also, there is no place for deceitful practices, in conjunction fair-mindedness must be present, especially while supervising how to address relevant issues. We learn from the lesson that personal interests due to greed can cause our societies not to see the big picture, which is when reverencing God, it helps us remain focused on why life exists and the value of relationships. Nehemiah realized he must cut through the worldly view that lay behind the law and positively rectify the apparent damage caused in the community.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Aim & Summary Anonymous writer

## **Lesson XI**

**Date:** March 14, 2021

**Lesson Scriptures:** Nehemiah 6:1-9

### **Enemies Against The Rebuilding**

**Lesson Aim:** We are to focus on the Lord's work in the midst of adversity without comprising. However, hard times can be difficult to bare and can leave emotional scars that are difficult. Yet we learn how to trust Godly wisdom to overcome adversity and hard times.

#### **Open It**

1. When have you ever felt intimidated by someone, and how did it make you feel?

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#### **Explore It**

1. What prompted Sanballat and his associates to send Nehemiah a message?

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2. What did Sanballat ask of Nehemiah?

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3. How did Nehemiah respond to Sanballat's invitation?

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4. What was different about the fifth time Sanballat sent the message to Nehemiah?

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5. From where did Nehemiah receive his strength to continue the work?

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#### **Get It**

1. What basic principles did Nehemiah follow when he faced opposition?

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2. What sin did Nehemiah want to avoid?

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3. In what ways is Nehemiah a good example for us to follow?

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4. When do you think it is important to fight back, and when is it better to back down?

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### **Apply It**

1. What specific responsibilities or challenges will you face this next week?

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**Summary:** The lesson demonstrates that God's purpose should never be abandon. Nehemiah gives us firsthand information about commitment. Ministry must be progressive, and leaders' behaviors are always scrutinized, especially when Godly projects are advancing even though taunts and threats are prevalent. Nehemiah helps us see at times; adversity changes tactics; therefore, we must consider what warrants a response as leaders. In the lesson challenges, we see the tests lead Nehemiah to be more motivated, driving him back to the task with more incredible determination.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Aim & Summary Anonymous writer

**Lesson XII**

**Date:** March 21, 2021

**Lesson Scriptures:** Nehemiah 6: 10-19

**The Completion of the Walls**

**Lesson Aim:** To demonstrate how we can develop personal and social skills as kingdom builders and glorify God through seeking Him for individual direction and maintaining our integrity. Therefore, our immediate communities will witness personally an impossible task accomplished by obeying God.

**Open It**

1. What would you tell a child who was being picked on by a bully?

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**Explore It**

1. What advice did Shemaiah give to Nehemiah?

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2. What did Nehemiah think of Shemaiah's advice?

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3. Why didn't Nehemiah back down as his opponents wanted?

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4. Toward what goal were Nehemiah's enemies working?

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**Get It**

1. What opposition do you face in your Christian walk?

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2. How can we discern insincerity or dishonesty when we see it?

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3. From what work do you think Satan wants to distract you?

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4. How can you prevent yourself from being distracted from the work God has given you?

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### **Apply It**

1. What can you do to prepare yourself for the next time someone tries to influence you through intimidation?

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**Summary:** We learn that our God provides wisdom when we seek justice, and He openly leads us to overcome internal despair, also external opposition. Nehemiah, as a leader, considered his credibility could impact other committed believers. On this occasion, Nehemiah teaches us that leadership's faithfulness to God gains respectability from the general public. As a result, the obvious will be understood that God provided help for willing and faithful believers. Sadly, often we will have individuals not on the same path to complete God's program. A pathway many take, guided by Worldly wisdom, truly a source of trouble to God's people. However, although resistance is evident, we learn that even Nehemiah's adversaries could not overshadow the divine assistance.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Aim & Summary Anonymous writer

### **Lesson XIII**

**Date:** March 28, 2021

**Lesson Scriptures:** Nehemiah 7: 1-73

### **Homeland Security**

**Lesson Aim:** We will learn that because a ministry completes a task, it requires believers to remain vigilant. Moreover, when a new assignment is needed, be careful, and not allow unprepared people in leadership roles. Furthermore, God does keep a record of the called.

#### **Open It**

1. What do you think are the most important attributes in a good leader?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does it feel to finish a project that no one thought you could finish?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Explore It**

1. How did Nehemiah choose the men to put in charge over Jerusalem?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How is Hananiah described?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What specific instructions did Nehemiah give to the men in charge of Jerusalem?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How is the city of Jerusalem described?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happened to some of the priests who could not find their family records? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Get It**

1. How did God lead Nehemiah?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. When have you felt God's guidance or leading in your life?

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3. In light of Nehemiah's example, what criteria should we follow in choosing leaders?

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### **Apply It**

1. What is one way you can lead by example?

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**Summary:** We can gather from the lesson as it relates to ministry, often when an objective is completed. We should take into consideration how to further the advancement of the finished work. In doing so, remember that our adversaries will not stop attempting to humiliate us and consequently hoping to bring shame to God. In addition, the lesson teaches that leadership assignments for a new task, may require different talents within the ministry. However, it is duly noted in the lesson specific roles require a particular leader. Nehemiah suggested that this leadership role is someone who can be relied on by his associates and has a right attitude towards God.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Aim & Summary Anonymous writer

2021 Lesson Aims, Summaries by Rev. Terrence Howard TH.M. and  
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\*The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty

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