

BLUEPRINTS

FOR A REBUILDING YEAR

WEEK 4 - GROUP STUDY

Nehemiah experienced great success rebuilding the wall, but it came with great opposition. Faithfulness through opposition always creates opportunities for God to work.

CONNECT

- **What is something in your house or that you carry with you to serve as a reminder of the character of God (faithfulness, love, forgiveness, greatness, etc.)?**

CONSIDER

- **Watch Video - Session 4: Opportunity Out Of Opposition (mynorthside.com/blueprints)**
- **What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon, devotions, or video this week?**

CHRIST

Read Nehemiah 4:1-15 as a group.

- The surrounding nations' leaders did not want to see Jerusalem restored. Without walls, the nation of Israel was vulnerable and could be exploited. So, they mocked, attacked, and intimidated the Israelites in an attempt to create division, discouragement, and fear. C. S. Lewis writes, "Only a real risk tests the reality of a belief."¹ **How does this quote apply to the Israelite people rebuilding the wall? How does it challenge your relationship with God?**
- Don't miss the real enemy in this story. Satan is doing everything he can to hinder God's call on Nehemiah and the Jewish people. **What form of discouragement or opposition do you face while following God? How does understanding who the real enemy is change the way you view the discouragement/opposition?**
- Nehemiah charges the Israelites to not lose faith with 3 challenges: do not be afraid, remember God's greatness, and fight for each other (v. 14). **How does remembering that God is Great and Awesome impact the other 2 challenges? Believers know that God is Great and Awesome, but why do we often forget these truths? Share a recent moment when God was Great and Awesome.**

¹ C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed* (London: Faber and Faber, 1961), 20-21.

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Read Nehemiah 6:1-16 as a group.

- Four times, Nehemiah's enemies tried to distract him. Four times, he gave them the same answer (6:3-4). God has placed many callings in our lives as James Hamilton writes, "If you're a student, God has called you to honor Him in your studies. If you're an employee, God has called you to honor Him in the way you serve your employer. If you're a spouse, God has called you to honor Him in your marriage. If you're single, God has called you to honor Him in your singleness. If you're a child, God has called you to honor Him by obeying and honoring your parents."² **With these or other callings in mind, what is distracting you from the great work(s) God has given you? How do you develop the steadfastness seen in Nehemiah?**
- Another distraction arrives as Nehemiah's enemies bribe a priest/prophet to deceive him into entering the Holy Place of the temple (v.10). Nehemiah knew Scripture, and only priests could enter this area (Numbers 18:7). Following this advice would have been a sin and lack of confidence in God's calling. **What truths from the Bible have helped you when facing discouragement or opposition?**
- The opposition Nehemiah and the wall builders faced was not without opportunity. God used it to reinforce the faith of Israel and to show His presence to the surrounding nations (6:16). **Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7, 2:14-15, 4:7-12, and 12:8-10 as a group. How does God create opportunities out of opposition? How has God worked through, or is currently working in, any discouragement or opposition you are facing?**
- If we are not fighting for each other, then we are fighting for ourselves. Or worse, we are fighting against each other. **What does it look like to fight for each other in our group? As a group, how can we pray for the discouragement or opposition you are facing right now?**

CALLING

- **Do not be afraid, remember God's greatness, and fight for each other (Nehemiah 4:14).** Ponder these challenges this week, because they each require a response.
- **Blueprints Daily Devotions:** Spend 15 minutes each day with the daily devotions from this study guide. Devotions can be found through Northside's App, by texting JOINGOD to 81411, or at www.mynorthside.com/blueprints.

² James M. Hamilton Jr. *Christ Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Ezra and Nehemiah* (B&H, 2014) 139.

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- **Memorize:** *“Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”*
- **Nehemiah 4:14b**
- **Further Study:** Read Nehemiah 8-9 in preparation for Session 5.