



NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 4 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What is the biggest voice that you pay the most attention to outside of Jesus' voice? Why?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (Nehemiah 4:1-23)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Nehemiah 4:1-6

- One of the facts about the book of Nehemiah is that there is a lot of the text that is devoted to the opposition that Nehemiah and the fellow builders received in the form of other people's voices constantly saying things about who Nehemiah is and what he and the people will be able to accomplish. Consider the following questions.
 - What do you think it means to have a "voice of negativity" be a part of your life?
 - What "voices" of negativity are a part of your life including your own?

- Are there any lies that Satan tells you that are difficult for you to not believe?
- Do you find it easy or hard to not listen to these “voices of negativity” or lies from Satan?
- How do you usually respond to “voices of negativity” and/or lies in your life?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- How did Nehemiah respond to the opposition that he was encountering in verses 4-6? What should this teach us today?
 - Nehemiah went straight to God and asked Him to deal with it. He didn't gossip about it. He didn't seek to fix it himself. He put it in God's hands. For us today, we need to know and live that our solutions are nothing in comparison to God's solutions. Putting things in God's hands needs to be our first choice and not our last resort.
- Notice what verse six says. “The people had a mind to work.”
 - Which of the following most accurately characterizes your life currently?
 - I have a mind to work for God regardless of the obstacles and/or opposition.
 - I have a mind to serve myself.
 - I have a mind that is super concerned about what others think about me.
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Nehemiah 4:7-15

- Who does Nehemiah encourage the people to remember in verse 14 and what should this teach us today?

- Nehemiah encourages the people to remember God and His power and ability. This verse alone can and should teach us many things today.
 - It should teach us that our focus in the midst of opposition and obstacles needs to be on what God has done, can do, and will do.
 - It should teach us that our focus needs to be on what we are able to do with our brothers and sisters in Christ, not on what we can't do because of any obstacles.
 - It should cause us to ask what brothers and sisters in Christ are we on mission with for the sake of God's kingdom.

Nehemiah 4:16-23

- How does Nehemiah 4:16-18 fit in with 1 Corinthians 12:12-27?
 - Each individual had a role in the rebuilding of the wall in Nehemiah and while the roles were different, the roles and the individuals were extremely valuable. This is how the body of Christ is called to function in both unity and diversity. We are called to value every member, but we are also called to be an active participant in the body, discovering our role and being willing to work with other brothers and sisters for the same mission.
 - Consider the following questions.
 - How does one go about finding their "role" in the body of Christ?
 - Do you know what your role is in the body?
 - Are you actively on mission with other brothers and sisters in the body? How do you know? What does this look like?
 - All of these questions are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- What is beautiful to you about verses 19-23? What is scary? What is inspiring?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Nehemiah Chapter 5)



NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 4 (STUDENT)

Discussion Starter

- What is the biggest voice that you pay the most attention to outside of Jesus' voice? Why?
- **Opening Prayer**
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Tell the Story

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Nehemiah 4:16-23

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