

GODLY LEADERSHIP NEHEMIAH

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

**Questions are based on New International Version (NIV)*

Lesson 20 • Nehemiah 3 & 4 • March 9, 2011

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Nehemiah 2** has helped you?

SECTION I: READ NEHEMIAH 3:1-32

2. As you skim through **Ch. 3**, it can appear to be a chapter of repetitive descriptions. Go on a treasure hunt for unique observations or details, and jot down the ones that caught your attention.
3. What purpose do you think the author has in specifically recording the builders by name?
4. The repairs to gates in Jerusalem are mentioned in **V1, 3, 6** and **13-15**. Why do you think gates are emphasized in these scriptures?
5. The phrase "next to" occurred frequently in this chapter. Put in your own words what "next to" means in this context.
6. What can you imagine is also being built along with Jerusalem's walls?
7. Think of the communities you are a part of (spirituality, family, work, social, geographic, etc.).
 - a) Share the benefits and blessings you've experienced as you worked "next to" others in that community.
 - b) Share the challenges and difficulties you bumped into as you worked "next to" others in that community.

SECTION II: READ NEHEMIAH 4:1-6

8. a) Summarize in your own words what happened in **Nehemiah 4:1-2** when Sanballat and Tobiah heard about rebuilding.
- b) Who was listening to them?
9. a) What was Nehemiah's reaction in **V4-5**?
- b) What was the people's reaction in **V6**?
10. Think about situations in which you have witnessed overt criticism or negativity.
- a) What do you think were the underlying motives or driving forces for that negativity?
- b) Remembering the responses in **V4-6**, how will you respond to similar situations?

SECTION III: READ NEHEMIAH 4:7-14

11. Describe the escalation of this "external" thread in **V7-8** and **V11**.
12. a) In **V10** and **V12**, what's the status of the builders both physically and emotionally?
- b) Why do you think God has included such detail about the exiles who returned to Jerusalem?
13. a) What "enemy" voices are threatening to undermine God's purpose for you?
- b) How might you be unwittingly undermining people in your circle of influence?

14. a) How does Nehemiah respond to the threat? (See **V9, 13-14**)
15. a) How do the builders respond? Summarize the changes they made in **V15-18, 21-23**.
- b) Why do you think the builders didn't just continue on in the status quo of **V6**.
16. From **V19-23**, comment on how increased community was built under increased threats.
17. Write a prayer request from your study of **Nehemiah 4**.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Based on all the challenges thrown at the Jews' leader, Nehemiah, what are some specific ways you can encourage the leaders in the communities to which you belong?
2. **V7** specifically lists the "enemies" coming against Nehemiah. Look up the following verses to gain insight into their origin and/or previous history with the Jews:
- a) ARABS
2 Chronicles 22:1 _____
2 Chronicles 26:3-7 _____
- b) AMMONITES
Genesis 19:36-38 _____
Deuteronomy 23:3-6 _____
- c) MEN OF ASHDOD
1 Samuel 5:1-8 _____
2 Chronicles 26:6 _____