

# Nehemiah Principles of Success – How to Overcome Obstacles

## Nehemiah 4 – Message Discussion Guide

### Connect

- What is one thing you started but regrettably never finished? What kept you from finishing?

### Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Nehemiah 4:1-3, 11.
  - List all the ways you can find that Nehemiah’s enemies used to try keep him and the people from rebuilding the walls.
  - Which of the attacks employed by Nehemiah’s enemies were most likely to get the people to stop working? Which of the attacks are you most susceptible to?
  - Why do you think the attacks were unsuccessful?
- Read Ephesians 6:11-13, 16.
  - What does Ephesians 6:12 remind us about the true identity of our enemy?
  - In what ways do verses 11, 13, 16 give assurances that all is not hopeless and that we can win this battle?
  - Verse 11 speaks of the “schemes” of the devil, and verse 16 speaks of the “flaming arrows” of the evil one. What do you think the writer is talking about with these two references? Give examples.
- Read Nehemiah 4:15-18.
  - Why do you think Nehemiah had the builders arm themselves with weapons of war?
  - If we can learn from Nehemiah’s actions, how we should prepare for future spiritual battles and future emotional struggles, then what should we do? How do we make sure we are prepared for future warfare?
- Read Luke 14:28-30, Proverbs 20:4.
  - Often times people start a task but never finish. What reasons do these verses give that many tasks are left unfinished?
  - What did Nehemiah say or do that led to his completion of the task? What was the key to the Israelites finishing the rebuilding of the walls?

### Respond

- What advice would you give to someone who is about to make a commitment to do something that they have tried before and been unsuccessful because they quit halfway through?
- What lessons does Nehemiah 4 teach us about how to survive the challenges faced in marriage and how to have a marriage that survives and thrives despite those challenges?

### Bonus for Thinkers

- In Nehemiah 4:4-5, Nehemiah prays for God’s judgment to come down on his enemies. This is called an imprecatory prayer. Other examples are found in Psalm 55:15, Psalm 58:6, and Psalm 109:9 (and other places). Should we pray like this about our enemies? Why are these prayers in the Bible?

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## First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (9/16)	Nehemiah 4:1-23
Tuesday (9/17)	2 Corinthians 5:1-21
Wednesday (9/18)	2 Corinthians 6:1-18
Thursday (9/19)	2 Corinthians 7:1-16
Friday (9/20)	2 Corinthians 8:1-24

# Daily Devotion Questions

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## Monday (9/16) — Nehemiah 4:1-23

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

## Tuesday (9/17) — 2 Corinthians 5:1-21

- In 5:9, Paul says that he made it his aim to please the Lord. In the verse before and the verse after he gives his reason and his motivation. Reread those verses. Why did Paul always seek to please the Lord?
- Write down three ways believers are a “new creation” (5:17) in Christ.
- We learn in 5:20 that we are ambassadors of Christ. What does that mean? In what ways should we all represent and speak for Christ in the world we live in?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:15. What are some ways we can live for him instead of living for ourselves?

## Wednesday (9/18) — 2 Corinthians 6:1-18

- In 6:2, we are reminded that now is the favorable time for us to share the gospel with our unsaved friends and family. Write down the names of three people you know who are unsaved that you could possibly share with or invite to church this weekend. Pray for each one of them.
- Paul makes a long list of things that he does not allow to impede his ministry in 6:4-10. What are two or three things on his list that are most difficult for you to deal with? Write those down and ask the Lord to help you persevere in the face of these obstacles.
- Being unequally yoked is forbidden in 6:14. What are three examples of how people form unholy partnerships that fall into this category?

## Thursday (9/19) — 2 Corinthians 7:1-16

- According to 7:10-11, there is a godly way to grieve over our sins that leads to change, and there is a worldly way to grieve over our sins that leads to no real change. Spend some time this morning and make a list of the things that characterize godly grief and the things that characterize worldly grief.
- After you have made the two lists described in the question above, honestly and prayerfully evaluate your grief over your sins. What kind of grief do you have?

## Friday (9/20) — 2 Corinthians 8:1-24

- Paul boasts of the commitment and perseverance of the believers in Macedonia (8:1-3). He says that even though they were experiencing great affliction and poverty that they found a way to be faithful and to give sacrificially. How has your faithfulness been impacted by the difficulties you face? How can you be more faithful despite hardships?
- In 8:9 we are reminded of how Jesus showed his love for us. According to 8:9, how did he do that? According to 8:8, how do we prove our love for him?
- Paul challenges the Corinthians to finish what they had started (8:11-12). What have you started or promised to the Lord that you haven’t finished?
- Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-9. What are some ways we prove or at least demonstrate that our faith and love is genuine? See how long a list you can make.