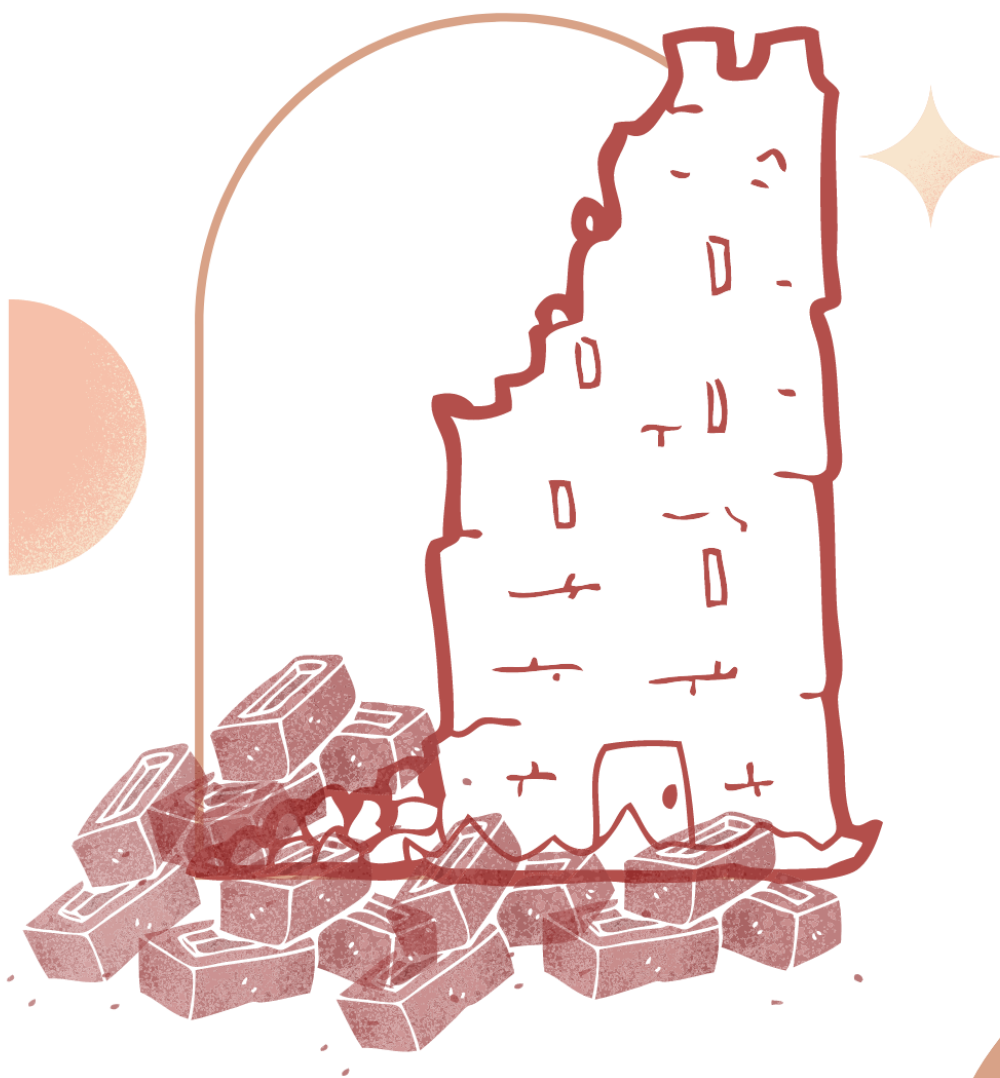


THE REBUILT LIFE

AN INDUCTIVE STUDY IN

NEHEMIAH



RCC WOMEN'S MINISTRY
TUESDAY 6:30
SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2021

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NEHEMIAH

THE REBUILT LIFE

RCC WOMEN'S MINISTRY
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SCHEDULE:

SEPTEMBER:

SEPTEMBER 7 - INTRO

SEPTEMBER 14 - LESSON 1

SEPTEMBER 21 - LESSON 2

SEPTEMBER 28 - LESSON 3

OCTOBER:

OCTOBER 5 - LESSON 4

OCTOBER 12 - BREAK

OCTOBER 19 - LESSON 5

OCTOBER 26 - LESSON 6

NOVEMBER:

NOVEMBER 2 - LESSON 7

NOVEMBER 9 - BREAK

NOVEMBER 16 - LESSON 8

NOVEMBER 23 - BREAK

NOVEMBER 30 - LESSON 9

DECEMBER:

DECEMBER 7 - CLOSING



The Rebuilt Life: Studies in Nehemiah

Nehemiah Ch. 1

Inductive Women's Bible Study – Lesson 1

It's the account of one man's determination, in spite of opposition, to see the wall of Jerusalem rebuilt. It happened nearly twenty-five hundred years ago in a land across the world from where you and I live today. Nehemiah's story is filled with intrigue and sinister plots. Against all odds, he faces down his enemies and rallies dispirited men to rise and rebuild. It makes for great reading, but why should we study the book of Nehemiah?

Nehemiah is a *model of leadership*. But his life and ministry is more than that. His experiences touch us all, for he encountered problems we face in everyday life. His example teaches us how to pray, how to wait on God, and how to work through the challenges of life. Look closely and see that Nehemiah models for us:

- How to handle discouragement.
- How to stay focused under pressure.
- How to motivate others.
- How to respond to criticism and false accusations.
- How to deal with setbacks and disappointment.
- How to act responsibly with power and privilege.
- How to finish what you start.

Nehemiah was a *man called to serve*. He didn't get to choose the circumstances of his life nor the conditions under which he labored. There was rubble to be cleared and obstacles to overcome. For that reason, Nehemiah prayed and he persisted. So must we as we endeavor to build a life that is pleasing and useful to God. What lessons for your own life will you draw out from Nehemiah's story?

Background When God commissioned Moses to lead His people out of slavery, He promised to be with them and make them a mighty nation. He spoke of a place where He would choose "to establish His name there for His dwelling" (Deuteronomy 12:5). In time, all surrounding nations were eclipsed by the power of Israel and Jerusalem was recognized as the city of God.

When the temple was built during King Solomon's reign, Jerusalem was at the height of glory. Her fame spread the glory of God's name to every nation. To Solomon, God renewed His promise that if Israel would obey Him, He would bless them—if they did not, He would scatter them to the ends of the earth and their temple would lie in a heap of ruins (1 Kings 9:7-8). Eventually, this is what happened. The kingdom was divided, and then fell. The northern kingdom fell first, and was absorbed into the surrounding cultures. Some years later, the southern kingdom was defeated and carried into captivity in Babylon.

Seventy years passed and the power of Babylon was broken by Persia. Cyrus, the Persian king, decreed that the Jews could return to their homeland and rebuild the city of Jerusalem.

In 536 B.C., the first group returned to Judah under the leadership of a man named Zerubbabel. They set about rebuilding the temple but soon became discouraged by the immensity of the task and opposition from their neighbors. With only the foundation of the temple laid, the work was abandoned. For sixteen years, the people worked their land and raised their families, indifferent to their own spiritual decline. God raised up two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, to challenge the people and reconstruction of the temple began again. Finally, some twenty years after the work first began, the temple was completed.

About sixty years later, a second group returned under the leadership of a priest and scribe named Ezra. They arrived in Jerusalem only to find the children of Israel had relapsed into spiritual and moral compromise. Intermarriage with people from the surrounding nations had weakened their own spiritual convictions. Through Ezra's faithful ministry, many of the people turned from their sin and once again committed to follow God's will for their lives.

However, Jerusalem remained a byword. The surrounding nations seized every opportunity to annoy and bully their Jewish neighbors. Life was difficult—most folks were barely able to eke out a living for themselves and their families. The ruined and decaying walls of Jerusalem were a visible sign that God's people remained vulnerable, living in affliction and shame.

This was the sad state of affairs that Hanani reported to his brother, Nehemiah, after a visit to Jerusalem in the year 445 B.C. Nehemiah was living in Shushan (or Susa) the winter residence of Artaxerxes, king of Persia. As cupbearer to the king, Nehemiah enjoyed the comforts of royal life and a position of influence with the king. His own place in life was secure. A lesser man might be saddened by Hanani's news but choose not to get involved. In Nehemiah's response, we see the depth of his character and get a first glimpse of the man God chose for a special work. While Nehemiah's work was to rebuild walls, God's work is rebuilding lives.



Getting started. Find a quiet place to study. Take your Bible, your lesson and any other study tools you want to use. Plan to spend about an hour each day on your lesson. **Pray.** Take time to settle your heart, focus your thoughts and ask the Lord to help you see with clear eyes.

“Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in Your law.” – Psalm 119:18 NLT

Nehemiah Ch. 1 Read the passage two or three times without interruption. If possible, read from more than one Bible translation. Briefly describe in your own words what is happening.

With each lesson a “working” text is provided for your convenience. You can use this to scribble notes, write down word definitions, highlight events—whatever you find useful to your own personal study. The translation used will vary from week to week.

Working Text for Nehemiah Ch. 1

New International Version (NIV)

1:1 The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, 2 Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

3 They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."

4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

5 Then I said:

"O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you.

7 We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

8 "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, 9 but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'

10 "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.

11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man."

I was cupbearer to the king.



You can also use this section to jot down your own thoughts and impressions about people and events. What do you observe about Nehemiah's character? What challenges or problems does he face? What do you observe in the character and behavior of others in the story?

Nehemiah 1:4-11

Bible Facts and Information:

[illegible]

My Research and Observations:

[illegible]

What four things did Nehemiah do when he received the news from Hanani?

What specific concerns and requests does Nehemiah mention in his prayer? _____

The month Chislev (Nehemiah 1:1) corresponds with our mid-November to mid-December. The month Nisan (Nehemiah 2:1) corresponds with our mid-March to mid-April. How long did Nehemiah pray before he received an answer? What does this say about Nehemiah?



INTERPRETATION – *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as, “Is there a command to obey? A promise to claim? A condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**



APPLICATION – *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to ***put it into action.***

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new lesson, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Nehemiah 1:1-3

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 1:4-11

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take A Closer Look

“O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant...”
Nehemiah 1:11a

Ask Nehemiah the secret of successful Christian living and his answer might simply be three words: prayer, persistence and obedience. Nehemiah practiced all three, especially when he found himself up against a difficult situation. Throughout the study of this book, we will see—time and again—that Nehemiah’s first response to problems is to pray. Nehemiah was a man who knew how to pray consistently and with results! He demonstrated his belief that the “effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16). Let’s take a closer look at Nehemiah’s prayer with an eye to discover how to be consistent and effective in our own prayer life.

The word **ACTS** helps us remember four elements of consistent prayer. Do you see these incorporated into Nehemiah’s prayer? Look over his prayer (vs. 5-11) and list what you find.

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

Do you consistently include each of these elements in your own prayer life? Do your best to explain why each one is necessary for you and important to God.

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

According to God's Word, what will make our prayers effective? Read the following verses and record what you find.

2 Chronicles 7:14 _____

Jeremiah 29:13 _____

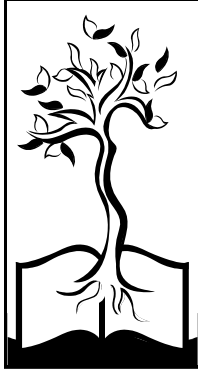
John 15:7 _____

1 John 5:14-15 _____

Nehemiah took time to pray before he took action. What effect did this have on the way he responded to the problem he was praying about? List all the ways you can think of.

Can you think of a specific time when you prayed about a problem before taking action? How did taking time to pray change your attitude or direct the action you took? Briefly share your experience.

What task or situation in life are you facing right now, for which you need to ask God's guidance and help? Take a few moments to bring your need to the Lord in prayer. You may or may not wish to share this prayer within your group.



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

Why is prayer so important? Here are the four shortest reasons I know.

Prayer *makes me wait*.

Secondly, prayer *clears my vision*.

Thirdly, prayer *quiets my heart*.

Fourthly, prayer *activates my faith*.

The Lord is the specialist we need for these uncrossable and impossible experiences.

He delights in accomplishing what we cannot pull off.

But He awaits our cry. He listens for our request.

Nehemiah was quick to call for help.

His favorite position when faced with problems was the kneeling position.

How about you?

- Chuck Swindoll -

Hand Me Another Brick



The Rebuilt Life: Studies in Nehemiah

Nehemiah Ch. 2

Inductive Women's Bible Study – Lesson 2

It started with a question. How are things in Jerusalem? It became a matter of personal concern and prayer. Nehemiah prayed long and hard about the situation in Jerusalem. He acknowledged that spiritual neglect had led to the dismal condition his people found themselves in. What could be done to turn the situation around? His plea for God's help became a burden to rebuild. He surveyed the problem—first on his knees in prayer and eventually on a moonlit ride over the broken borders. What he saw broke his heart and strengthened his resolve. There was work to be done and by God's good hand upon him, Nehemiah would begin!

What Nehemiah observed on his late night rounds is a matter for every believer to take to heart. Neglected borders leave the center of life vulnerable. Wherever rubble or decay remains, examination and action is needed. There will always be someone who says, "It can't be done." Never mind the obstacles. God honors the man or woman who presses forward in determined obedience.

Background No sooner had Nehemiah and the people set out to work when trouble showed up. It came in the form of three men. As governor of Samaria, Sanballat viewed Nehemiah as a threat to his authority. Tobiah, an Ammonite official and Geshem, an Arab ally were happy to back Sanballat's efforts to intimidate Nehemiah and stop the work. Some background details will help paint a more complete picture.

You will remember, from our previous lesson background, how the Jewish nation divided and eventually fell. The northern captives intermarried with surrounding cultures and their descendents became known as Samaritans. The southern captives were carried into Babylon where they remained for 70 years. When the southern exiles returned, old divisions flared. The Samaritans regarded their returning neighbors with suspicion and determined to put obstacles in the way wherever possible. They successfully delayed work on the temple for sixteen years; eventually it was rebuilt. Throughout the following decades, the Samaritans continued to annoy and oppose their Jewish neighbors. They watched carefully for any sign that the Jews were breaking Persian law or threatening the interests of the Persian king who ruled throughout the land.

Early in the reign of Artaxerxes, a serious complaint was lodged against the Jews (see Ezra 4:6-23). The offense committed was that they began to rebuild the walls without express consent from the king. Their accusers made a persuasive argument that this was the first step in rebelling against the king and declaring independence from Persia. So Artaxerxes signed a decree ordering the work must stop until such time as he might choose to allow it. In light of this, it's understandable why—some years later—Nehemiah would ask God (Nehemiah 1:11) to "grant him compassion before this man."



Getting started. Find a quiet place to study. Take your Bible, your lesson and any other study tools you want to use. Plan to spend about an hour each day on your lesson. **Pray.** Take time to settle your heart, focus your thoughts and ask the Lord to help you see with clear eyes.

“Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in Your law.” – Psalm 119:18 NLT

Nehemiah Ch. 2 Read the passage two or three times without interruption. If possible, read from more than one Bible translation. Briefly describe in your own words what is happening.

With each lesson, a “working” text is provided for your convenience. You can use this to scribble notes, write down word definitions, highlight events—whatever you find useful to your own personal study. The translation used will vary from week to week.

Working Text for Nehemiah Ch. 2

New Century Version (NCV)

1 It was the month of Nisan in the twentieth year Artaxerxes was king. He wanted some wine, so I took some and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before. 2 So the king said, “Why does your face look sad even though you are not sick? Your heart must be sad.”

Then I was very afraid. 3 I said to the king, “May the king live forever! My face is sad because the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire.”

4 Then the king said to me, “What do you want?” First I prayed to the God of heaven.

5 Then I answered the king, “If you are willing and if I have pleased you, send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so I can rebuild it.” 6 The queen was sitting next to the

king. He asked me, “How long will your trip take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the

king to send me, so I set a time. 7 I also said to him, “If you are willing, give me letters for the

governors of Trans-Euphrates. Tell them to let me pass safely through their lands on my way to

Judah. 8 And may I have a letter for Asaph, the keeper of the king’s forest, telling him to give

me timber? I will need it to make boards for the gates of the palace, which is by the Temple,

and for the city wall, and for the house in which I will live.” So the king gave me the letters,

because God was showing kindness to me. 9 Then I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king's letters. The king had also sent army officers and soldiers on horses with me.

10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite officer heard about this, they were upset that someone had come to help the Israelites.

11 I went to Jerusalem and stayed there three days. 12 Then at night I started out with a few men. I had not told anyone what God had caused me to do for Jerusalem. There were no animals with me except the one I was riding.

13 I went out at night through the Valley Gate. I rode toward the Dragon Well and the Trash Gate, inspecting the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and the gates that had been destroyed by fire. 14 Then I rode on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for the animal I was riding to pass through. 15 So I went up the valley at night, inspecting the wall. Finally, I turned and went back in through the Valley Gate. 16 The guards did not know where I had gone or what I was doing. I had not yet said anything to the Jewish people, the priests, the important men, the officers, or any of the others who would do the work. 17 Then I said to them, "You can see the trouble we have here. Jerusalem is a pile of ruins, and its gates have been burned. Come, let's rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so we won't be full of shame any longer." 18 I also told them how God had been kind to me and what the king had said to me. Then they answered, "Let's start rebuilding." So they began to work hard.

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite officer, and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they made fun of us and laughed at us. They said, "What are you doing? Are you turning against the king?" 20 But I answered them, "The God of heaven will give us success. We, his servants, will start rebuilding, but you have no share, claim, or memorial in Jerusalem."



You can also use this section to jot down your own thoughts and impressions about people and events. What do you observe about Nehemiah's character? What challenges or problems does he face? What do you observe in the character and behavior of others in the story?

Nehemiah 2:11-20

Bible Facts and Information:

My Research and Observations:

What was Nehemiah's first response to the king's offer to give what he asked? What does this say about Nehemiah?

What does Nehemiah's detailed request to the king say about him? _____



INTERPRETATION – *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as, “Is there a command to obey? A promise to claim? A condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**



APPLICATION – *How does it apply to me?*

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To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new lesson, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Nehemiah 2:1-10

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 2:11-20

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take A Closer Look

**“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us;
therefore we, His servants, will arise and build. . .”**

Nehemiah 2:20

Nehemiah knew he faced a monumental task. It weighed deeply on his heart for months before he was able to take action. His solitary midnight tour brought home the magnitude of the work. What thoughts must have gone through his mind as he surveyed the ancient ruins? Was the damage worse than he imagined? Possibly. Did he recognize the work would tax the limit of his skills and talents? Certainly. Was he tempted to scale back the plan while it remained just between him and God? Clearly not. Nehemiah's determination to follow through was fueled by two convictions: he knew that his all-powerful God was in control and his ever-faithful God would bless the work of faithful men. Let's take a closer look at Nehemiah's godly determination with an eye to make it our own.

Consider again how Nehemiah prayed. Keep in mind that only *some* of his prayers are recorded. What connection do you see between Nehemiah's praying and his confidence?

The king gave Nehemiah all the resources he asked for—yet Nehemiah recognized that it was God's good hand upon him (see Nehemiah 2:8b). Consider how important it was for Nehemiah to know that God would guide and provide for every need. Knowing that this building project was according to the will of God gave Nehemiah confidence and determination to see it through.

Identify an area of your life that needs to be built up according to God's will (it may be an attitude of heart, a relationship, a habit, a personal character quality, an area of ministry or spiritual discipline). Do your best to describe what would be pleasing to God in this area.

As you contemplate your own “building project,” make an effort to retrace the same steps of preparation that Nehemiah took:

1) He surveyed the need. What needs do you see? _____

2) He came up with a plan. What will you do to begin? _____

3) He enlisted the help of others. Who will you ask for prayer and spiritual support? You may want to share your plan with another person and give them permission to ask, from time to time, how you’re making progress.

Bear in mind that Nehemiah never hesitated to go to God in prayer. It was his first response because he recognized God is the source of all wisdom and strength. He wanted God to direct his way. Take time to pray about the task before you. Give God an honest account of your need and tell Him whether (or not) you will come to Him first for direction.



Could you use Nehemiah’s confidence and determination in your own life? As you close out this section, meditate on the following scriptures and remember that you serve the same all-powerful, ever-faithful God that Nehemiah prayed to.

Reflect on (*just some of*) God’s promises.

Isaiah 41:10 _____

Isaiah 48:17 _____

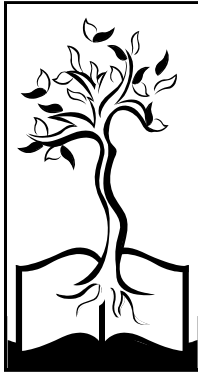
Matthew 7:7-8 _____

Philippians 1:6 _____

Philippians 4:6-7 _____

Philippians 4:13 _____

Hebrews 13:20-21 _____



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

When you wait on the Lord in prayer, you are not wasting your time;
you are investing it.

God is preparing both you and your circumstances so that
His purposes will be accomplished.

However,
when the right time arrives for us to act by faith,
we dare not delay.

- Warren Wiersbe -
Be Determined



The Rebuilt Life: Studies in Nehemiah

Nehemiah Ch. 3-4

Inductive Women's Bible Study – Lesson 3

If you have ever tackled a remodeling project, you know the tremendous amount of effort and planning that is needed *before* you begin. You draw up a plan and estimate the cost. You get your permits and gather your materials. Then you roll up your sleeves and get to work. For a project to succeed, you need coordination and cooperation. We see both as Nehemiah's workforce set themselves to the task.

Getting the work started on the wall was a tremendous achievement for Nehemiah—but keeping it going proved to be the harder task. No sooner had the work begun when the naysayers showed up. Nehemiah's response is a potent example of how to deal with opposition.

Background The conflict surrounding the wall was stirred up by a man named Sanballat. Nehemiah briefly introduced Sanballat and two of his cronies, Tobiah and Gesham, in chapter two. Now, in chapter four, Sanballat is back in full force, scheming and threatening the work. Who were these angry men opposing the restoration of Jerusalem's wall?

Scholars believe that Sanballat lived in Beth-Horon, eighteen miles northwest of Jerusalem. Ancient history records that he was the governor of Samaria; as such, he had no interest in seeing Jerusalem restored. Throughout Nehemiah's account we learn that Sanballat was a constant thorn in the side of God's people. He and Nehemiah would clash on more than one occasion. Sanballat had a daughter who would later marry into the family of Eliashib the priest (Nehemiah 13:28).

Tobiah was an Ammonite official, thought by many scholars to be the governor of that region. He, too, had family ties to Eliashib the priest (Nehemiah 13:4). He was part of an influential family that gave him personal links to the nobles of Judah which, as we'll see in chapter six, became a source of friction for Nehemiah. While Sanballat seems to be the ringleader, Tobiah turns out to be a stronger threat in the long run.

There is evidence that Gesham the Arab ruled a league of tribes that controlled the areas of Moab and Edom to the southeast as well as portions of the Arabian Desert stretching south to Egypt. This political threesome rallied every enemy they could find to obstruct God's work in Jerusalem.



Getting started. Find a quiet place to study. Take your Bible, your lesson and any other study tools you want to use. Plan to spend about an hour each day on your lesson. **Pray.** Take time to settle your heart, focus your thoughts and ask the Lord to help you see with clear eyes.

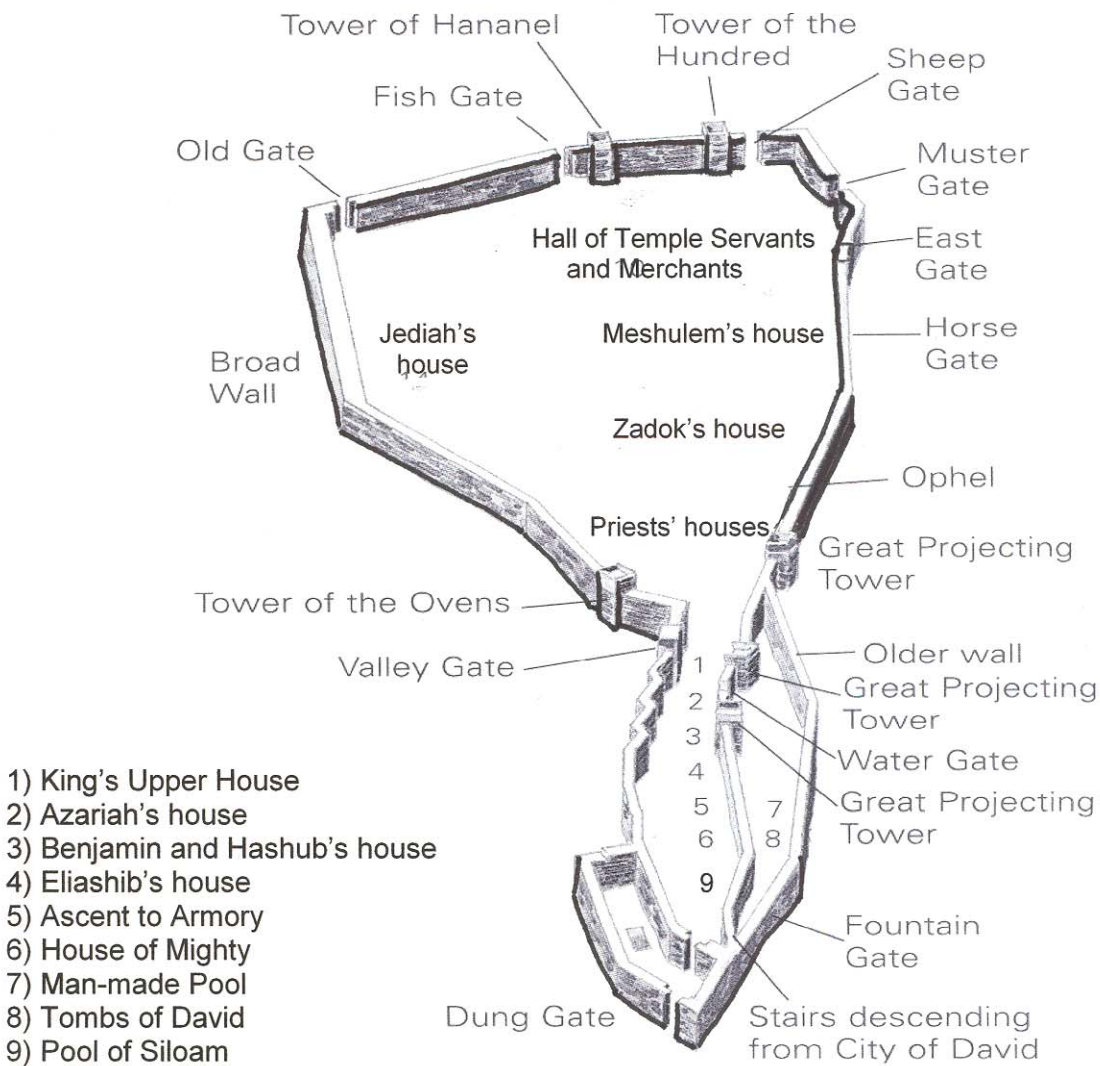
"Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in Your law." – Psalm 119:18 NLT

Nehemiah Ch. 3-4 Read the passage two or three times without interruption. If possible, read from more than one Bible translation. Briefly describe in your own words what is happening.



OBSERVATION – *Who worked where?*

Nehemiah 3 Using the diagram below, you should be able to chart where each person worked on the wall. Start with Eliashib the priest who worked on the Sheep Gate—then work your way counterclockwise around the wall.



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Working Text for Nehemiah Ch. 4

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

4:1 Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews. 2 He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men of Samaria and said, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?”

3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him and he said, “Even what they are building—if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!”

4 Hear, O our God, how we are despised! Return their reproach on their own heads and give them up for plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not forgive their iniquity and let not their sin be blotted out before You, for they have demoralized the builders.

6 So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

7 Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. 8 All of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it. 9 But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and night.

10 Thus in Judah it was said, “The strength of the burden bearers is failing, yet there is much rubbish; and we ourselves are unable to rebuild the wall.” 11 Our enemies said, “They will not know or see until we come among them, kill them and put a stop to the work.”

12 When the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times, "They will come up against us from every place where you may turn," 13 then I stationed men in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, the exposed places; and I stationed the people in families with their swords, spears and bows. 14 When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: "Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses."

15 When our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had frustrated their plan, then all of us returned to the wall, each one to his work. 16 From that day on, half of my servants carried on the work while half of them held the spears, the shields, the bows and the breastplates; and the captains were behind the whole house of Judah.

17 Those who were rebuilding the wall and those who carried burdens took their load with one hand doing the work and the other holding a weapon. 18 As for the builders, each wore his sword girded at his side as he built, while the trumpeter stood near me. 19 I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "The work is great and extensive, and we are separated on the wall far from one another. 20 At whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."

21 So we carried on the work with half of them holding spears from dawn until the stars appeared. 22 At that time I also said to the people, "Let each man with his servant spend the night within Jerusalem so that they may be a guard for us by night and a laborer by day."

23 So neither I, my brothers, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us removed our clothes, each took his weapon even to the water.



You can also use this section to jot down your own thoughts and impressions about people and events. What do you observe about Nehemiah's character? What challenges or problems does he face? What do you observe in the character and behavior of others in the story?

[illegible]

Nehemiah 4:7-14

Bible Facts and Information:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Nehemiah 4:15-23

Bible Facts and Information:

[illegible]

My Research and Observations:

[illegible]



INTERPRETATION – *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as, “Is there a command to obey? A promise to claim? A condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**



APPLICATION – *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to ***put it into action.***

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new lesson, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Nehemiah 4:1-6

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 4:7-14

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 4:15-23

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take A Closer Look

**“When our enemies heard that it was known to us,
and that God had frustrated their plan,
then all of us returned to the wall, each one to his work.”**

Nehemiah 4:15 NASB

Sanballat and his cronies had hoped their threats and intimidation would grind the work to a standstill. They ridiculed and plotted against God’s people and for a time, it appeared they might succeed. Discouragement and doubt began to creep in. But Nehemiah’s godly response to opposition helped the workers to remain focused and faithful. Let’s take a closer look at how Nehemiah handled the scare tactics with an eye to arm ourselves against spiritual assaults.

In verses 1-3, what tactics did Sanballat and Tobiah use to discourage the workers?

Put yourself in the place of these workmen on the wall. What effect would insults and ridicule have on you?

What was Nehemiah’s first response? _____

Prayer was a consistent part of Nehemiah’s approach to problem solving. He prayed first and he prayed often. What is usually your first response to insults or criticism?

When harsh words failed to stop the workers, the situation intensified. In your own words, briefly describe what Nehemiah and his crew were up against.

Where were these threats coming from? You have already charted where each person worked on the wall. Go back to the diagram and chart the location of their foes. To do this, look at a map or use the information given here.

- Sanballat was from Samaria, to the north.
- Tobiah and the Ammonites came from the east.
- Arab country lay south of Jerusalem.
- Ashdod was due west of Jerusalem.

What creative and practical solution did Nehemiah come up with? _____

The work continued. What do you think gave the workmen strength and courage to carry on despite the threats?

It's no secret. Our adversary, the devil, wants to hinder your spiritual progress and obstruct the work that God wants to accomplish in and through you. If you are actively involved in building the wall, the enemy is out to sabotage the work. How can we stay focused and faithful? Nehemiah's example gives us a spiritual pattern to follow.

Pray. Have you ever felt yourself come under attack for practicing your Christian faith? How should you respond? Read the following scriptures and record what you find.

Matthew 5:43-44 _____

Philippians 4:6-7 _____

Colossians 4:2-6 _____

Stay focused on God. Nehemiah urged the people to "remember the Lord who is great and awesome and *fight*." When the enemy comes out in force, our strength is in knowing who fights our battles. Of what can you be certain?

Psalms 138:7-8 _____

Psalms 147:5-6 _____

Psalms 5:7-12 _____

Be armed and ready. Every man in Nehemiah's workforce was equipped with a tool and a weapon. They took practical measures, doing what was humanly possible—then put their trust in the Lord. *"Our God will fight for us."*

How prepared are you to fend off spiritual attacks? God promises that if we put on the full armor He has provided us with, we will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. Carefully and *prayerfully* read through **Ephesians 6:10-18**.

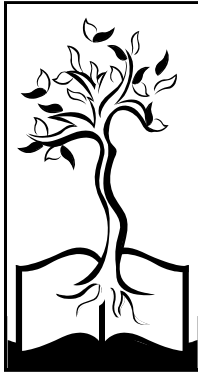
Briefly describe each piece of armor and how it protects you against enemy attack.

Having put on the full armor of God, what instructions are we given? _____

Are you careful to put on every piece of armor God has provided? Why or why not? How will neglecting even one piece leave you vulnerable to the enemy's assault?

Nehemiah's response to opposition was just what the people needed to see in their leader. His influence and example heartened the workers and strengthened their resolve.

What do you most appreciate about the way Nehemiah handled this challenging situation? Share your thoughts.



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

This chapter is a wonderful case study in how to persevere
in the face of intense antagonism.
It also reveals how opposition, rightly handled,
can actually become a tool in the hands of God to make His people
stronger in their quest to do His will.

- John MacArthur -
Experiencing the Good Hand of God



The Rebuilt Life: Studies in Nehemiah

Nehemiah Ch. 5

Inductive Women's Bible Study – Lesson 4

“A house divided against itself cannot stand.”
President Abraham Lincoln

When last we saw Nehemiah and his crew, they were working shoulder to shoulder, a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other. What happened to this picture of courage and cooperation? Enemy threats had failed to halt work on the wall, but inner conflicts put further progress in jeopardy. Who was responsible for this new disruption? It was the people themselves.

It is sad, but true, that the work of God is often sabotaged from within. Where seeds of selfishness are sown, dissention springs up. Knowing this to be true, Nehemiah confronted the mistreatment and demanded that God's people must be *godly* in all their dealings. Human nature has not changed from Nehemiah's time to ours. Neither has God's standard for His people.

Background Nehemiah's workforce faced several challenges. Crops were poor due to a famine (Nehemiah 5:3). Since men were needed to work full-time on the wall, it fell to their families to coax whatever meager harvest they could from the land. Family budgets were strained, many to the breaking point. There was no welfare program as we know it—but Israelite law provided ways for getting through hard times. Interest free loans could be given on houses and fields. Children could be sold into labor—as servants, not slaves. After a certain time (Deuteronomy 15:1) any property or family member seized because of an unpaid debt was to be returned. Unfortunately, these provisions were being abused by some individuals. Many found themselves exploited and in deep financial distress with no hope of relief.



Getting started. Find a quiet place to study. Take your Bible, your lesson and any other study tools you want to use. Plan to spend about an hour each day on your lesson. **Pray.** Take time to settle your heart, focus your thoughts and ask the Lord to help you see with clear eyes.

“Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in Your law.” – Psalm 119:18 NLT

Nehemiah Ch. 5 Read the passage two or three times without interruption. If possible, read from more than one Bible translation. Briefly describe in your own words what is happening.

With each lesson, a “working” text is provided for your convenience. You can use this to scribble notes, write down word definitions, highlight events—whatever you find useful to your own personal study. The translation used will vary from week to week.

Working Text for Nehemiah Ch. 5

New International Version (NIV)

1 Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their Jewish brothers. 2 Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.” 3 Others were saying, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine.” 4 Still others were saying, “We have had to borrow money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards. 5 Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our countrymen and though our sons are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others.”

6 When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. 7 I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are exacting usury from your own countrymen!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them 8 and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our Jewish brothers who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your brothers, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.

9 So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies? 10 I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let the exacting of usury stop! 11 Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the usury you are charging them—the hundredth part of the money, grain, new wine and oil.”

12 “We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.” Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an

oath to do what they had promised.

13 I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, "In this way may God shake out of his house and possessions every man who does not keep this promise. So may such a man be shaken out and emptied!" At this the whole assembly said, "Amen," and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

14 Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year—twelve years—neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor.

15 But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. 16 Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land.

17 Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. 18 Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people.

19 Remember me with favor, O my God, for all I have done for these people.

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Follow Nehemiah as he tells his story. Look for clues that tell you when and where the story takes place. Who else is mentioned and what part do they play? What events have taken place? What is happening now? How does Nehemiah respond?

You can also use this section to jot down your own thoughts and impressions about people and events. What do you observe about Nehemiah's character? What challenges or problems does he face? What do you observe in the character and behavior of others in the story?

Bible Facts and Information:

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Nehemiah 5:14-19

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How did Nehemiah respond to the complaints? What does this say about him? _____



INTERPRETATION – *What does it mean?*

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To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new lesson, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Nehemiah 5:1-13

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 5:14-19

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take A Closer Look

**“There was a great outcry of the people and their wives
against their Jewish brethren.”**

Nehemiah 5:1

Throughout Nehemiah’s workforce, fear and fatigue was taking its toll. Hard labor and high taxes were an unavoidable reality of life. Relentless harassment and a food shortage made their existence a daily struggle. On top of these hardships, some of the wealthy Jews were taking advantage of their less fortunate neighbors. Within the wall they were building, unity was crumbling. Let’s take a closer look at how Nehemiah faced this problem head-on, before it could derail the work.

Consider how Nehemiah’s strength as a leader showed through his response to the legitimate complaints of the people. He had a *project* to complete—but he was concerned for the *people*. Take a few moments to examine your own approach to work. Would you describe yourself as being “project-oriented” or “people-oriented”? How do you react when a problem threatens to slow or halt your work? What can you personally learn from Nehemiah’s example? Briefly share your thoughts.

Nehemiah rebuked the nobles and rulers for their wrong behavior towards their fellow countrymen. According to God’s Law, what specifically were they doing wrong?

Leviticus 25:35-37 _____

Leviticus 25:39-41 _____

According to verse 9, what message did their wrong behavior send to their unbelieving neighbors?

The problem Nehemiah faced is one that still threatens to divide God’s people today. We can easily get caught up in the mindset of looking out for number one. What should the attitude of God’s people be toward each other? Read the following scriptures and share what you find.

Romans 12:5 _____

Philippians 2:1-4 _____

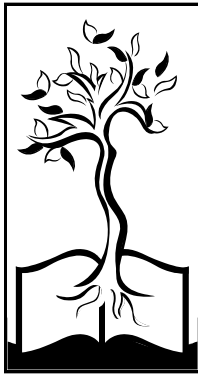
1 Peter 3:8-9 _____

Think about your own church fellowship and service. Is there a spirit of unity? Are there signs of erosion? What can you personally do to foster unity among your fellow Christian servants?

How did Nehemiah back his words up by his example? _____

Here is some food for thought. Nehemiah was willing to give up his rights (5:14-15) and set aside opportunities for personal advancement. He made financial sacrifices for the sake of God's work. He did this out of devotion to God and love for God's people

Do you believe that only those who are called into a place of leadership should be willing to make such sacrifices? Why or why not?



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

Psalm 133:1 NIV



The Rebuilt Life: Studies in Nehemiah

Nehemiah Ch. 6

Inductive Women's Bible Study – Lesson 5

Nehemiah and his crew had faced opposition to the work since day one. Their efforts had been ridiculed and threatened. Internal problems between the poor and those who exploited them had been confronted and corrected. Now the work was nearly finished—all that remained was to hang the gates and celebrate! It might seem like a good time for Nehemiah to breathe a sigh of relief and relax. But the most intense opposition came just as the work was wrapping up, and it was aimed *directly* at Nehemiah.

Background Under Nehemiah's leadership, the massive reconstruction of the wall was completed in just fifty-two days. This remarkable accomplishment was not lost on Jerusalem's stunned neighbors. Walls that had languished in decay for nearly one hundred fifty years stood strong—Jerusalem was a city once more. Nehemiah tells us that the surrounding nations lost confidence when they were forced to acknowledge that "this work had been accomplished with the help of our God." Nehemiah gave all the credit to God for the completion of this impossible task. We can appreciate Nehemiah's gratitude even more if we understand just how unworkable this plan appeared from the very beginning.

As you recall from chapter one, Nehemiah prayed and fasted for months before asking permission to go to Jerusalem. He implored God to grant him compassion before the king. As cupbearer, Nehemiah had favor with the king—but his privileged position didn't allow him to ask the king to change his mind. But that is, in effect, what Nehemiah did by asking to rebuild Jerusalem's wall.

According to Bible scholars, the Artaxerxes whom Nehemiah served is the same ruler who earlier had commanded the work in Jerusalem stopped (see Ezra 4). Ancient Persian history records an uprising in Artaxerxes' kingdom that took his military six years to put down. It appears that this revolt coincides with the accusations made against Jerusalem (Ezra 4:13). If so, his suspicions may have been aroused, prompting his decree to stop the work. Although several years had elapsed, Nehemiah would certainly risk appearing disloyal. Such a request might have enraged the king. From the outset, Nehemiah knew it would take an act of God to get Jerusalem's wall rebuilt.



Getting started. Find a quiet place to study. Take your Bible, your lesson and any other study tools you want to use. Plan to spend about an hour each day on your lesson. **Pray.** Take time to settle your heart, focus your thoughts and ask the Lord to help you see with clear eyes.

“Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in Your law.” – Psalm 119:18 NLT

Nehemiah Ch. 6 Read the passage two or three times without interruption. If possible, read from more than one Bible translation. Briefly describe in your own words what is happening.

With each lesson, a “working” text is provided for your convenience. You can use this to scribble notes, write down word definitions, highlight events—whatever you find useful to your own personal study. The translation used will vary from week to week.

Working Text for Nehemiah Ch. 6

New Century Version (NCV)

1 Then Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and our other enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall and that there was not one gap in it. But I had not yet set the doors in the gates.

2 So Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: “Come, Nehemiah, let’s meet together in Kephirim on the plain of Ono.” But they were planning to harm me. 3 So I sent messengers to them with this answer: “I am doing a great work, and I can’t come down. I don’t want the work to stop while I leave to meet you.”

4 Sanballat and Geshem sent the same message to me four times, and each time I sent back the same answer. 5 The fifth time Sanballat sent his helper to me with the message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter. 6 This is what was written:

A report is going around to all the nations, and Geshem says it is true,
that you and the Jewish people are planning to turn against the king and
that you are rebuilding the wall. They say you are going to be their king
7 and that you have appointed prophets to announce in Jerusalem: “There
is a king of Judah!” The king will hear about this. So come, let’s discuss
this together.

8 So I sent him back this answer: "Nothing you are saying is really happening. You are just making it up in your own mind." 9 Our enemies were trying to scare us, thinking, "They will get too weak to work. Then the wall will not be finished." But I prayed, "God, make me strong."

10 One day I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel. Shemaiah had to stay at home. He said, "Nehemiah, let's meet in the Temple of God. Let's go inside the Temple and close the doors, because men are coming at night to kill you."

11 But I said, "Should a man like me run away? Should I run for my life into the Temple? I will not go." 12 I knew that God had not sent him but that Tobiah and Sanballat had paid him to prophesy against me. 13 They paid him to frighten me so I would do this and sin. Then they could give me a bad name to shame me. 14 I prayed, "My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat and what they have done. Also remember the prophetess Noadiah and the other prophets who have been trying to frighten me."

15 The wall of Jerusalem was completed on the twenty-fifth day of the month of Elul. It took fifty-two days to rebuild. 16 When all our enemies heard about it and all the nations around us saw it, they were shamed. They then understood that the work had been done with the help of our God.

17 Also in those days the important men of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and he answered them. 18 Many Jewish people had promised to be faithful to Tobiah, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah son of Arah. And Tobiah's son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah.

19 These important men kept telling me about the good things Tobiah was doing, and then they would tell Tobiah what I said about him. So Tobiah sent letters to frighten me.



You can also use this section to jot down your own thoughts and impressions about people and events. What do you observe about Nehemiah's character? What challenges or problems does he face? What do you observe in the character and behavior of others in the story?

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Nehemiah 6:10-14

Bible Facts and Information:

[illegible]

Nehemiah 6:15-19

Bible Facts and Information:

[illegible]

My Research and Observations:

[illegible]



INTERPRETATION – *What does it mean?*

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Nehemiah 6:1-9

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 6:10-14

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 6:15-19

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take A Closer Look

**So I sent messengers to them, saying,
“I am doing a great work and I cannot come down.”**

Nehemiah 6:3a

Have you ever had the unpleasant experience of being someone’s personal target? Most of us, as Christians, can expect to be ridiculed on occasion or dismissed for our beliefs. Like Nehemiah, we may come under direct fire. There are great lessons to be learned from Nehemiah’s example. Let’s take a closer look with an eye to discover how to respond when enemy darts start flying.

When Sanballat and his co-conspirators realized they’d been unsuccessful in stopping the work, they decided to attack Nehemiah personally. They used three tactics in an effort to discredit and destroy Nehemiah: false pretense, rumors and intimidation.

False Pretense (Verses 1-4)

The first attack was the most subtle and dangerous. To a casual observer, it may have appeared that Sanballat and Tobiah were ready to make peace, but Nehemiah recognized their motives were false.

We aren’t specifically told how Nehemiah knew they were planning to harm him. What possible explanations can you think of?

The plain of Ono was a coastal area about 20 miles northwest of Jerusalem.

Even if they had intended no *physical* harm to Nehemiah, Sanballat and Tobiah showed their true colors after Nehemiah’s first reply. They persisted in trying to draw him away *before* the work was finished.

What does Nehemiah’s reply say about his focus and devotion? _____

In today's culture, what carries the potential to distract or draw God's servants away?
List what you can think of.

Can you recall a time when you have experienced the subtle attempt of the enemy to distract and draw you away? How did you respond? Briefly shared what you learned from that experience.

The enemy says, "Leave what you're doing and come down." How can we be as resolved as Nehemiah in our response? Meditate on these verses before you answer.

Romans 12:1-2,14 ✚ Philippians 3:13-14 ✚ Colossians 3:1-8 ✚ 1 John 2:15-16

Rumors (Verses 5-9)

When subtle attempts failed to bring Nehemiah down, his enemies decided to play hardball. Sanballat sent an open letter intended to damage Nehemiah's reputation and relationships.

Read Sanballat's letter carefully (verses 6-7) and note how his false accusations were designed to raise questions about Nehemiah's. . .

Reputation: _____

Motives: _____

Relationships with the people: _____

Relationship with the king: _____

If you had been Nehemiah, what would have been your reaction? _____

According to Nehemiah's example, what is the proper way to respond when someone makes a false accusation?

What was missing from Nehemiah's response? _____

What stands out noticeably in Nehemiah's response? _____

No one wants to be the subject of rumor or gossip. It is a painful experience that is sometimes unavoidable. Arrows may fly, but we don't have to be powerless against them. Read the following verses and explain, in your own words, what will deflect a false accusation.

1 Peter 2:12, 15 _____

2 Peter 3:14-15 _____

Intimidation (Verses 10-14)

The final attack in Sanballat's scheme was outright intimidation. If he could not trick or shame Nehemiah, he would try to destroy him through fear.

Briefly describe the plot against Nehemiah. _____

Nehemiah rejected Shemiah's advice, saying it was not from the Lord. How could he be so sure? (Hint: Read Numbers 18:7)

One of the oldest and most potent weapons the enemy uses is *fear*. Fear can cloud our judgment, cause us to act impulsively and sin. What enabled Nehemiah to curb his fear and avoid sin?

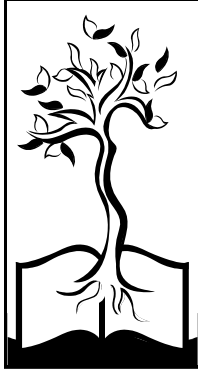
Knowing God's Word guards us from sin (Psalm 119:11) and it enables us to face down fear. Read the following scriptures and briefly share what you find. Then tuck them into your arsenal for the next time *you* face the enemy's intimidation.

Isaiah 41:10 _____

Psalm 56:3-4 _____

2 Timothy 1:7 _____

In your personal experience, which of the three tactics used against Nehemiah strikes most closely to home? What can you draw from his experience?



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

Only he who can say, "The Lord is the strength of my life,"
can say, "Of whom shall I be afraid?"
- Alexander Maclaren -



The Rebuilt Life: Studies in Nehemiah

Nehemiah Ch. 7- 8

Inductive Women's Bible Study – Lesson 6

There was reason to celebrate in Jerusalem! A newly rebuilt wall surrounded and protected the city. Once the wall was completed, Nehemiah set another plan into motion. As we read what happened next, we understand that Nehemiah's single-minded focus to rebuild the wall was part of a greater objective to rebuild a nation. Building a wall was a tremendous undertaking, but building a God-honoring community is what would make Jerusalem the "holy city" once again. While it isn't recorded, we can be sure that Nehemiah prayed for God's help and for faithful co-workers. God answered that prayer.

Background Ezra, who has not appeared yet in Nehemiah's story, was a priest and scribe, a descendent of Aaron. He is no stranger to Jerusalem, having arrived some fourteen years before Nehemiah. He, too, received permission from Artaxerxes to lead a group to Jerusalem. Nehemiah came with authority to rebuild the wall; Ezra was sent with authority to restore temple worship and instruct the people in the laws of God. When he arrived, he found God's people living in a state of moral and spiritual compromise. From Ezra's perspective, the revival we read about in this lesson was long overdue! His prayers, deep devotion to God's Word and faithful ministry among the people prepared the way for Nehemiah's work.

Ezra was a man who devoted his life to understanding and obeying God's will. We are told (Ezra 7:10) that he "set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel." Ezra's love for God and scholarly devotion led him to accumulate a substantial collection of scriptural material. According to Bible scholars, he was probably the first man to compile what scriptural books existed during his time, bringing them together in a way that would eventually be recognized today as a major portion of our Old Testament.



Getting started. Find a quiet place to study. Take your Bible, your lesson and any other study tools you want to use. Plan to spend about an hour each day on your lesson. **Pray.** Take time to settle your heart, focus your thoughts and ask the Lord to help you see with clear eyes.

"Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in Your law." – Psalm 119:18 NLT

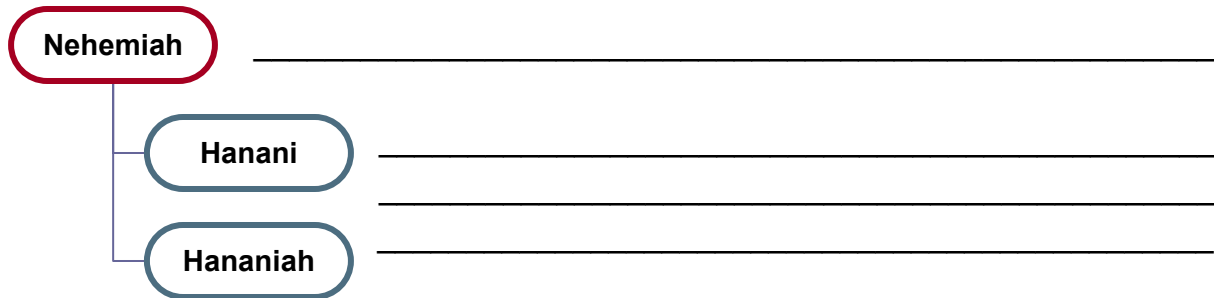
Nehemiah Ch. 7-8 Read the passage two or three times without interruption. If possible, read from more than one Bible translation. Briefly describe in your own words what is happening.



OBSERVATION – *Rebuilding the Community*

Overview of Chapter 7

Once the rebuilding of the wall was finished, Nehemiah took steps to rebuild the community. He began by making a few key appointments. The simple organization chart below gives us the picture. Do your best to explain each person's position and responsibilities.



Why did Nehemiah choose these men to lead? _____

What safety precautions were put into place? Why would these be necessary? _____

Next, Nehemiah took a census of the people. Why? What clue are we given in vs. 4? _____

Nehemiah needed to know who was available to repopulate Jerusalem and help rebuild the community. Later we'll discover (in chapter 11) that the people drew lots to decide who would move from the countryside into Jerusalem. Nehemiah discovered a document that listed the names of those in the first group who returned to Judah with Zerubbabel some seventy years earlier. Using this list, Nehemiah could determine which descendants were eligible for citizenship as well as what role they would serve in rebuilding the community. This list registered people using ten different categories:

1. **The original leaders.** Zerubbabel and eleven other men are listed in vs. 6-7.
2. **Families or clans.** The people listed in vs. 8-38 were grouped according to family ties or the town they settled in.
3. **Priests.** (vs. 39-43) These men were the descendants of Aaron, Moses' brother. These religious leaders would oversee temple services, sacrifices and holy feasts.

4. **Levites.** (vs. 43) Levites were descended from Levi, one of Jacob's twelve sons. Their job was to assist the priests. *Note: Every priest was a Levite, but not every Levite would be a priest—only those directly descended from Aaron.*
5. **Singers.** (vs. 44) The singers, like the gatekeepers who follow, were a specialized group of Levites who served in the temple. While in exile, there hadn't been much to sing about, but now musicians would be needed for temple worship.
6. **Gatekeepers.** (vs. 45) Their job was to provide security for the temple.
7. **Temple servants.** (vs. 46-56) Temple servants were the assistants to the Levites, just as the Levites were assistants to the priests. They carried out routine tasks like cutting wood and drawing water.
8. **Solomon's servants.** (vs. 57-60) These people performed the same tasks as temple servants, however, they were not Jewish by birth.
9. **Those of unproven ancestry.** (vs. 61-65) There were some priests and laymen whose family genealogy could not be verified. The decision was made to exclude any of these men from priestly functions until their case could be decided by Urim and Thummim (an ancient and sacred method of determining God's will on a specific matter).
10. **Miscellaneous unnamed servants.** (vs. 67)

"Reading this long list of difficult names might be boring to the modern student, but these people were God's 'bridge' from the defeats of the past to the hopes of the future." --Warren Wiersbe, *Be Determined*

The final step Nehemiah took towards rebuilding the community was to secure material support for those who would now be working in the temple (vs. 70-72). Nehemiah was determined that the spiritual life and vitality of God's people would be nurtured.



For the next several chapters, Nehemiah slips into the background. Up until now, he has been writing in the first-person. In chapter 8, the narrative changes to the third-person and the focus shifts to the spiritual renewal of God's people.

With each lesson, a “working” text is provided for your convenience. You can use this to scribble notes, write down word definitions, highlight events—whatever you find useful to your own personal study. The translation used will vary from week to week.

Working Text for Nehemiah Ch. 8

New Living Translation (NLT)

1 All the people assembled together as one person at the square just inside the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had given for Israel to obey. 2 So on October 8, Ezra the priest brought the scroll of the law before the assembly, which included the men and women and all the children old enough to understand.

3 He faced the square just inside the Water Gate from early morning until noon and read aloud to everyone who could understand. All the people paid close attention to the Book of the Law. 4 Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. To his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah. To his left stood Pedaiah, Mishaël, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam.

5 Ezra stood on the platform in full view of all the people. When they saw him open the book, they all rose to their feet. 6 Then Ezra praised the Lord, the great God, and all the people chanted, “Amen! Amen!” as they lifted their hands toward heaven. Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

7 Now the Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah—instructed the people who were standing there. 8 They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage.

9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were interpreting for the people said to them, “Don’t weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the Lord your God.” All the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the law.

10 And Nehemiah continued, “Go and celebrate with a feast of choice foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don’t be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!”

11 And the Levites, too, quieted the people, telling them, “Hush! Don’t weep! For this is a sacred day.” 12 So the people went away to eat and drink at a festive meal, to share gifts of food, and to celebrate with great joy because they had heard God’s words and understood them.

13 On October 9, the family leaders and the priests and Levites met with Ezra to go over the law in greater detail. 14 As they studied the law, they discovered that the Lord had commanded through Moses that the Israelites should live in shelters during the festival to be held that month. 15 He had said that a proclamation should be made throughout their towns and especially in Jerusalem, telling the people to go to the hills to get branches from olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and fig trees. They were to use these branches to make shelters in which they would live during the festival, as it was prescribed in the law.

16 So the people went out and cut branches and used them to build shelters on the roofs of their houses, in their courtyards, in the courtyards of God’s Temple, or in the squares just inside the Water Gate and the Ephraim Gate. 17 So everyone who had returned from captivity lived in these shelters for the seven days of the festival, and everyone was filled with great joy! The Israelites had not celebrated this way since the days of Joshua son of Nun.

18 Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God on each of the seven days of the festival. Then on October 15, they held a solemn assembly, as the law of Moses required.



You can also use this section to jot down your own thoughts and impressions about people and events. What do you observe about Nehemiah's character? What challenges or problems does he face? What do you observe in the character and behavior of others in the story?

[illegible]

Nehemiah 8:9-12

Bible Facts and Information:

[illegible]

Nehemiah 8:13-18

Bible Facts and Information:

[illegible]

My Research and Observations:

[illegible]



INTERPRETATION – *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as, “Is there a command to obey? A promise to claim? A condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**



APPLICATION – *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to ***put it into action.***

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new lesson, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Nehemiah 8:1-8

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 8:9-12

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 8:13-18

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take A Closer Look

**Then Ezra blessed the Lord the great God.
And all the people answered, “Amen, Amen!” while lifting up their hands;
then they bowed low and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.**

Nehemiah 8:6 (NAS)

The Jews of Nehemiah’s day had a rich spiritual heritage. As God’s chosen people, they were the original “one nation under God.” This ragged remnant of a mighty nation carried with them the history of all God had done—but something was missing. Lost in the rubble of time and wasted tradition was a genuine hunger for God’s Word. But that was about to change. When Ezra stood to read from the sacred scroll, the people were ready and willing to hear. The result was amazing! Responsive hearts revived and new life burst forth. Let’s take a closer look at the people’s response with an eye to discover the signs of revival.

Preparation → Can you picture the scene described here? It’s early morning, the people have gathered and Ezra stands at a raised wooden podium made just for this occasion. What other “clues” do you find to indicate that the people were eager to hear God’s Word? List as many as you see.

Prayer → Ezra began with prayer. The Hebrew word translated as “blessed” is *barakh* (*baw-rock*), which means “to bend the knee; to pray to; to praise; to ask a blessing of.” Ezra opened the book to read and the people stood up—then he *knelt down* to pray!

As Ezra knelt in praise, acknowledging God as the source of all blessing, how did the people respond?

In each case, what does their physical posture say about the posture of their heart?

How would you describe the “posture” of your heart when you open God’s Word?

Hearing God's Word →¹ Ezra read from the Word and the Levites helped the people to understand what they heard. Six times in this chapter there is reference made to *understanding*. The Hebrew word is *bin* (*bean*) which means "to perceive; observe; have insight into; attend to; to regard; understand." You get the idea—the people heard with their ears *and* with their heart.

What is the difference between *knowledge* and *understanding*? _____

How did the Levites go about explaining God's Word to so many people? The only detail we're given (vs. 7) is that they explained the law to the people where they stood. A reasonable explanation might be that Ezra read a section of the Word, and then paused while the Levites interpreted and explained what he had read. In any case, the learning process took time, attention and devoted effort on everyone's part!

Can you put yourself in that group of people who are eager and devoted to hearing God's Word? What effort on your part is required? Briefly share what has helped you personally toward a better understanding of God's Word.

Conviction →¹ Hearing God's Word moved the people to godly sorrow over sin. Knowing they fell short of God's holy law convicted them deeply, bringing them to tears. Can you imagine this multitude of people literally weeping before the Lord? It was an emotional scene brought on—not by pulpit pounding or theatrical preaching—but by the impact of God's Word.

How is the power of God's Word described in Hebrews 4:12? _____

True sorrow for sin leads to a change of mind *and* direction—as 2 Corinthians 7:10 says, "Godly sorrow produces repentance." What does God promise to the one who repents?

Joel 2:12-13 _____

Isaiah 55:7 _____

Acts 3:19 _____

1 John 1:9 _____

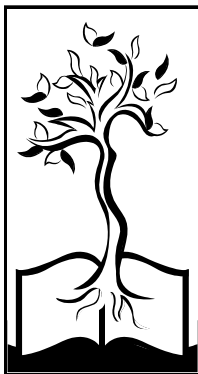
Ezra and Nehemiah urged the people to stop their weeping. It has been said that grief looks back, but gladness looks ahead. It was a day to rejoice for what had been restored.

Obedience →¹ A true sign of hearing and understanding God's Word is *obeying* God's Word. Stop to consider how obedience is a healthy sign of spiritual revival. Share your thoughts.

Worship and Praise →¹ Through reading God's Word, the people learned more about God's laws and about His willingness to forgive and restore what was lost. They learned that He blesses obedience. They understood there is a time to weep for sin and a time to rejoice for salvation!

"The joy of the Lord is your strength." The word *strength* means a place of safety, refuge and protection. Consider how significant these words would be to the people as they stood within the newly restored walls of Jerusalem. Reflect on what it means to have the joy of the Lord as a place of safety, refuge and protection. Take a few moments to express your thoughts to the Lord.

As you take time for some self-examination, do you recognize a need for revival in your own heart? What areas of life would you ask God to renew and restore?



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

The joy of the Lord is the joy that springs up in our hearts
because of our relationship to the Lord.

It is a God-given gladness found when we are in communion with God.
When our goal is to know more about the Lord, the by-product is His joy.

From the Nelson Study Bible



The Rebuilt Life: Studies in Nehemiah

Nehemiah Ch. 9

Inductive Women's Bible Study – Lesson 7

God keeps His promises. What He says, He will do. But oh, the wait! Does waiting make you change your mind? If you've ever been tempted to throw in the towel and move on, move *over*—you're not alone. Patience doesn't come naturally to many of us! How blessed we are that God loves us with infinite patience. He waits (as long as it takes) to show Himself faithful.

For Nehemiah and the weary wall-builders, the last fifty-two days had been a grueling test of physical endurance, emotional stamina and spiritual courage. The newly rebuilt wall stood, every stone a testimony to the power of Israel's God. Now, as the people gathered near the Water Gate, it was not to dedicate the wall (that will come later) but to repent and re-dedicate themselves to the God Who keeps His promises. Consider the words God had uttered to Solomon some five hundred years earlier:

“If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray
and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”
2 Chronicles 7:14

God patiently waited half a millennium to fulfill His promise to Nehemiah's generation. His unchanging promise stands to this day. He still waits to show Himself faithful.

Background Jerusalem needed more than just her walls restored. When the people heard and understood God's Word they knew *spiritual* restoration needed to begin. With Ezra's guidance, the Jews set out to reclaim their spiritual heritage from the rubble of time and neglect.

For the first time since the days of Joshua (Nehemiah 8:17) the people observed the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) to commemorate when the children of Israel lived in the wilderness. While generations of Jewish children enjoyed sleeping in “tents” for seven days, they would hear how their ancestors had wandered in circles for forty years because of their unwillingness to trust and obey God. At the same time, they learned how God continued to provide for His people, never letting them go hungry or even have their shoes wear out.

In chapter nine, Ezra and the Levites lead the people in a national day of repentance similar to the Day of Atonement. Fasting, sackcloth, and dirt were outward demonstrations of the genuine sorrow and conviction of sin that the people experienced upon hearing God's Word. The revival at the Water Gate three weeks earlier brought life-changing momentum. The sons and daughters of Israel gathered to confess their sins, praise God for His goodness and recommit themselves to learn and obey God's Word.



Getting started. Find a quiet place to study. Take your Bible, your lesson and any other study tools you want to use. Plan to spend about an hour each day on your lesson. **Pray.** Take time to settle your heart, focus your thoughts and ask the Lord to help you see with clear eyes.

“Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in Your law.” – Psalm 119:18 NLT

Nehemiah Ch. 9 Read the passage two or three times without interruption. If possible, read from more than one Bible translation. Briefly describe in your own words what is happening.

With each lesson, a “working” text is provided for your convenience. You can use this to scribble notes, write down word definitions, highlight events—whatever you find useful to your own personal study. The translation used will vary from week to week.

This chapter records a formal prayer which was written (probably by Ezra) and recited by a group of Levites when the people gathered for a national day of repentance and recommitment.

As you read, notice how this prayer helps the people to praise God for His goodness and power which are seen:

1. In creation (vs. 5-6).
2. In His past dealings with His people (vs. 7-31).
3. In His dealings with their present condition (vs. 32-38).

Working Text for Nehemiah Ch. 9

New Century Version (NCV)

1 On the twenty-fourth day of that same month, the people of Israel gathered. They did not eat, and they wore rough cloth and put dust on their heads to show their sadness.

2 Those people whose ancestors were from Israel had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood and confessed their sins and their ancestors' sins.

3 For a fourth of the day they stood where they were and read from the Book of the Teachings of the Lord their God. For another fourth of the day they confessed their sins and worshiped the Lord their God. 4 These Levites were standing on the stairs: Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Kanani. They called out to the Lord their God with loud voices.

5 Then these Levites spoke: Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah. They said, “Stand up and praise the Lord your God, who lives forever and ever. Blessed be your wonderful name. It is more wonderful than all blessing and praise.

6 “You are the only Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, with all the stars. You made the earth and everything on it, the seas and everything in them; you give life to everything. The heavenly army worships you.

7 “You are the Lord, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur in Babylonia and named him Abraham.

8 “You found him faithful to you, so you made an agreement with him to give his descendants the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites, and Girgashites. You have kept your promise, because you do what is right.

9 “You saw our ancestors suffering in Egypt and heard them cry out at the Red Sea.
10 You did signs and miracles against the king of Egypt, and against all his officers and all his people, because you knew how proud they were. You became as famous as you are today.

11 “You divided the sea in front of our ancestors; they walked through on dry ground. But you threw the people chasing them into the deep water, like a stone thrown into mighty waters.

12 “You led our ancestors with a pillar of cloud by day and with a pillar of fire at night. It lit the way they were supposed to go.

13 “You came down to Mount Sinai and spoke from heaven to our ancestors. You gave them fair rules and true teachings, good orders and commands.

14 “You told them about your holy Sabbath and gave them commands, orders, and teachings through your servant Moses.

15 “When they were hungry, you gave them bread from heaven. When they were thirsty, you brought them water from the rock. You told them to enter and take over the land you had promised to give them.

16 “But our ancestors were proud and stubborn and did not obey your commands.
17 They refused to listen; they forgot the miracles you did for them. So they became stubborn and turned against you, choosing a leader to take them back to slavery. But you are a forgiving God. You are kind and full of mercy. You do not become angry quickly, and you have great love. So you did not leave them.

18 “Our ancestors even made an idol of a calf for themselves. They said, ‘This is your god, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’ They spoke against you.

19 “You have great mercy, so you did not leave them in the desert. The pillar of cloud guided them by day, and the pillar of fire led them at night, lighting the way they were to go.

20 “You gave your good Spirit to teach them. You gave them manna to eat and water when they were thirsty. 21 You took care of them for forty years in the desert; they needed nothing. Their clothes did not wear out, and their feet did not swell.

22 “You gave them kingdoms and nations; you gave them more land. They took over the country of Sihon king of Heshbon and the country of Og king of Bashan.

23 “You made their children as many as the stars in the sky, and you brought them into the land that you told their fathers to enter and take over.

24 “So their children went into the land and took over. The Canaanites lived there, but you defeated them for our ancestors. You handed over to them the Canaanites, their kings, and the people of the land. Our ancestors could do what they wanted with them.

25 “They captured strong, walled cities and fertile land. They took over houses full of good things, wells that were already dug, vineyards, olive trees, and many fruit trees. They ate until they were full and grew fat; they enjoyed your great goodness.

26 “But they were disobedient and turned against you and ignored your teachings. Your prophets warned them to come back to you, but they killed those prophets and spoke against you.

27 “So you handed them over to their enemies, and their enemies treated them badly. But in this time of trouble our ancestors cried out to you, and you heard from heaven. You had great mercy and gave them saviors who saved them from the power of their enemies.

28 “But as soon as they had rest, they again did what was evil. So you left them to their enemies who ruled over them. When they cried out to you again, you heard from heaven. Because of your mercy, you saved them again and again.

29 “You warned them to return to your teachings, but they were proud and did not obey your commands. If someone obeys your laws, he will live, but they sinned against your laws. They were stubborn, unwilling, and disobedient.

30 “You were patient with them for many years and warned them by your Spirit through the prophets, but they did not pay attention. So you handed them over to other countries.

31 “But because your mercy is great, you did not kill them all or leave them. You are a kind and merciful God.

32 “And so, our God, you are the great and mighty and wonderful God. You keep your agreement of love. Do not let all our trouble seem unimportant to you. This trouble has come to us, to our kings and our leaders, to our priests and prophets, to our ancestors and all your people from the days of the kings of Assyria until today.

33 “You have been fair in everything that has happened to us; you have been loyal, but we have been wicked.

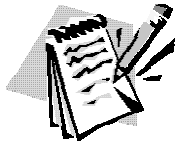
34 “Our kings, leaders, priests, and ancestors did not obey your teachings; they did not pay attention to the commands and warnings you gave them.

35 “Even when our ancestors were living in their kingdom, enjoying all the good things you had given them, enjoying the land that was fertile and full of room, they did not stop their evil ways.

36 “Look, we are slaves today in the land you gave our ancestors. They were to enjoy its fruit and its good things, but look, we are slaves here.

37 “The land’s great harvest belongs to the kings you have put over us because of our sins. Those kings rule over us and our cattle as they please, so we are in much trouble.

38 “Because of all this, we are making an agreement in writing, and our leaders, Levites, and priests are putting their seals on it.”



OBSERVATION – *What do I see?*

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Follow along with Nehemiah as he tells his story. Look for clues that tell you when and where the story is taking place. Who else is mentioned and what part do they play? What events have taken place? What is happening now? How does Nehemiah respond?

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources. You may want to look up names and places in a Bible dictionary, map or encyclopedia. What else can you discover about the people and places mentioned in this chapter?

You can also use this section to jot down your own thoughts and impressions about people and events. What do you observe about Nehemiah's character? What challenges or problems does he face? What do you observe in the character and behavior of others in the story?

Nehemiah 9:1-4

Bible Facts and Information:

My Research and Observations:

Nehemiah 9:5-6

Nehemiah 9:7-31

Bible Facts and Information:

[illegible]

Nehemiah 9:32-38

Bible Facts and Information:

[illegible]

My Research and Observations:

[illegible]



INTERPRETATION – *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as, “Is there a command to obey? A promise to claim? A condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**



APPLICATION – *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new lesson, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Nehemiah 9:1-4

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 9:5-6

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 9:7-31

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 9:32-38

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take A Closer Look

“Stand up and bless the Lord your God forever and ever!”

Nehemiah 9:5 (NKJ)

What a remarkable scene we witness in this chapter. The people gather with fasting, sackcloth and ashes to confess and repent of their sins. They stand (for three hours!) while the Word of God is read aloud. Then they spend the next three hours praising God for His goodness and mercy. Now *that's* revival! Let's take a closer look at what this prayer says about God, and reflect on all we have to praise Him for.

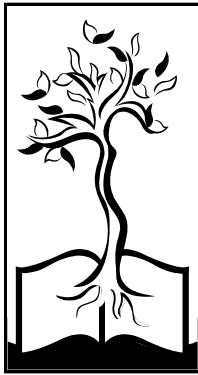
By reviewing an honest account of their spiritual history, the people acknowledged their faults and remembered God's grace and mercy. What do they confess about Israel's behavior towards God? Briefly list the actions/attitudes described in vs. 16-19.

What do these same verses confess about God's response toward Israel? _____

Scan through this prayer looking for descriptions of God. Look for adjectives that describe His character, and verbs that show His deeds. What do you find?

✠ **Stand up and bless the Lord your God!** ✠

If we were to recite our own spiritual history, would it resemble Israel's experience in some way? Reflecting on what you have seen about God in this prayer—and what you have experienced firsthand of His goodness—write your own prayer of praise and worship.



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

Just suppose you took time to reflect on God's goodness
and to go back over the story of your life;
the milestones past which He has led you, the path along which He has brought you.

What a blessing it would be to reflect upon His goodness!

I think we could come to the conclusion that God's mercy with a sinner is only equaled
and perhaps outmatched by His patience with the saints, with you and me.

- Alan Redpath -



The Rebuilt Life: Studies in Nehemiah

Nehemiah Ch. 10–11

Inductive Women's Bible Study – Lesson 8

In our nation's history, Watergate is a reminder of leadership gone terribly wrong. But in Nehemiah's day, what took place at the Water Gate brought the people together and turned the nation around. Revival! God's Word was publicly read and God's people were profoundly moved to action.

The spiritual revival described in chapter 8 led to the renewed commitment we read about in this week's lesson. We see rededicated people who are motivated to change. They are so serious about this commitment that they put it in writing, pledging to put God first in their private lives and public dealings. The people came together as a nation, but each family and individual was responsible before God to follow through. Can a spiritual revival spark a national restoration? It did in Nehemiah's day. What would it take to see it happen today?

Background With only a small number of people actually living in Jerusalem, it would take more than newly rebuilt walls to make the city a safe and attractive place to live. Once the building was finished, workers from the outlying villages and townships returned to their own homes and families.

Nehemiah knew that Jerusalem needed *people* to become a strong and productive community that honored God. So he came up with a plan. They would cast lots to bring one-tenth of the population into the city. Others voluntarily chose to resettle their families within the city walls. It has been calculated that there could have been as many as one million people living in Judah during this time—if so, Jerusalem's population increased dramatically.



Getting started. Find a quiet place to study. Take your Bible, your lesson and any other study tools you want to use. Plan to spend about an hour each day on your lesson. **Pray.** Take time to settle your heart, focus your thoughts and ask the Lord to help you see with clear eyes.

“Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in Your law.” – Psalm 119:18 NLT

Nehemiah Ch. 10-11 Read the passage two or three times without interruption. If possible, read from more than one Bible translation. Briefly describe in your own words what is happening.

With each lesson, a “working” text is provided for your convenience. You can use this to scribble notes, write down word definitions, highlight events—whatever you find useful to your own personal study. The translation used will vary from week to week.

Nehemiah 10:1-27 lists the priests, Levites and other leaders who signed a covenant to lead God’s people and faithfully uphold God’s Laws. The obligations of this covenant are then spelled out in the rest of chapter 10.

Note: One of the signers of this document was a priest named Shemaiah. Some think this is the same man who earlier conspired with Sanballat and Tobiah to bring Nehemiah down. If so, his name on this document is a welcome indication that he repented and recommitted himself to God.

Working Text for Nehemiah Ch. 10:28–39

New Living Translation (NLT)

28 The rest of the people—the priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers, Temple servants, and all who had separated themselves from the pagan people of the land in order to serve God, and who were old enough to understand—29 now all heartily bound themselves with an oath. They vowed to accept the curse of God if they failed to obey the law of God as issued by his servant Moses. They solemnly promised to carefully follow all the commands, laws, and regulations of the Lord their Lord.

30 “We promise not to let our daughters marry the pagan people of the land, nor to let our sons marry their daughters. 31 We further promise that if the people of the land should bring any merchandise or grain to be sold on the Sabbath or on any other holy day, we will refuse to buy it. And we promise not to do any work every seventh year and to cancel the debts owed to us by other Jews.

32 “In addition, we promise to obey the command to pay the annual Temple tax of an eighth of an ounce of silver, so that there will be enough money to care for the Temple of our God. 33 This will provide for the Bread of the Presence; for the regular grain offerings and burnt offerings; for the offerings on the Sabbaths, the new moon celebrations, and the annual festivals; for the holy offerings; and for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel. It will also provide for the other items necessary for the work of the Temple of our God.

34 “We have cast sacred lots to determine when—at regular times each year—the families of the priests, Levites, and the common people should bring wood to God’s Temple to be burned on the altar of the Lord our God as required in the law.

35 “We promise always to bring the first part of every harvest to the Lord’s Temple—whether it be a crop from the soil or from our fruit trees. 36 We agree to give to God our oldest sons and the firstborn of all our herds and flocks, just as the law requires. We will present them to the priests who minister in the Temple of our God. 37 We will store the produce in the storerooms of the Temple of our God. We will bring the best of our flour and other grain offerings, the best of our fruit, and the best of our new wine and olive oil. And we promise to bring to the Levites a tenth of everything our land produces, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our rural towns. 38 A priest—a descendant of Aaron—will be with the Levites as they receive these tithes. And a tenth of all that is collected as tithes will be delivered by the Levites to the Temple of our God and placed in the storerooms. 39 The people and the Levites must bring these offerings of grain, new wine, and olive oil to the Temple and place them in the sacred containers near the ministering priests, the gatekeepers and the singers.

“So we promise together not to neglect the Temple of our God.”



You can also use this section to jot down your own thoughts and impressions about people and events. What do you observe about Nehemiah's character? What challenges or problems does he face? What do you observe in the character and behavior of others in the story?

Nehemiah 10:32-39

Bible Facts and Information:

[illegible]

My Research and Observations:

[illegible]

Having pledged loyalty and obedience to God's Word (vs. 28-29), Nehemiah and the people made specific promises to God regarding issues of daily life. Briefly list what those promises were.

vs. 30 _____

vs. 31 _____

vs. 32-39 (Hint: the last sentence summarizes the promises made in this section)



OBSERVATION – *Repopulating the City*

Overview of Chapter 11

The leaders of the people already lived in Jerusalem (see vs.1). What plan did Nehemiah undertake to determine who else would move to the city?

What reasons might have kept people from wanting to live in Jerusalem? _____

As an expression of their commitment, another group volunteered to relocate their homes to Jerusalem. The word in vs. 2 translated *volunteered* or *willingly offered themselves* means “to impel; to incite from within.” What would motivate these people to move?

While this move was necessary, it would not have been without some personal sacrifice. Consider what these people would be leaving behind and what they might experience as they adjusted to new surroundings.

In reading the lists in this chapter, we notice people carrying out a variety of jobs and responsibilities. Among them:

- Joel (vs. 9) was an overseer, or chief officer, in the city. He was assisted by Judah, described as “second in command in the city.” Scholars speculate that these men ensured the city streets and markets were maintained.
- Seraiah (vs. 11) listed as “leader of the house of God” was possibly the high priest at this time. He was supported by a staff of 822 men who carried on the work of the temple.
- Zabdiel (vs. 14) supervised the “valiant warriors” who are thought to have guarded the city.
- Mattaniah (vs. 17) led worship in thanksgiving and prayer, while Uzzi (vs. 22) led the worship singers.
- Shabbethai and Jozabad (vs. 16) were in charge of “business outside the house of God.” Scholars speculate it was their job to oversee the maintenance and repairs on the building. “Gatekeepers” (vs. 19) did janitorial and maintenance work also.



INTERPRETATION – *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as, “Is there a command to obey? A promise to claim? A condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**



APPLICATION – *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new lesson, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Nehemiah 10:28-30

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 10:31

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 10:32-39

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Overview of Nehemiah 11

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it. _____



Take A Closer Look

**“Now all heartily bound themselves with an oath...
They solemnly promised to carefully follow all the commands,
laws and regulations of the Lord their God.”**

Nehemiah 10:29 (NLT)

When Ezra read the scriptures to the people (Nehemiah Ch. 8) they listened, understood, and gained insight. They were moved to tears and repentance. They confessed—individually and as a nation—their sins (Nehemiah Ch. 9). Then they made a promise to God that they would earnestly seek to obey His laws. Look closely at the people and see them experience the *life-changing* process that comes from hearing and responding to God’s Word.

A changed life begins with a changed heart. After an honest examination of their waywardness and God’s faithfulness, the people said, “Now because of all this...” (Nehemiah 9:38) They were ready to make some changes.

Confession clears the way for change, as King David well knew. What did he pray in Psalm 51:9-10?

A changed heart has new priorities. The people separated themselves from the pagan people of the land in order to serve God. This doesn’t mean they isolated themselves from their surroundings, but they chose not to live by the commonly accepted standards of the day. They chose to honor the Lord.

They made a practical promise to put God first in three key areas of life. Briefly explain each promise in your own words.

In home and family life (vs. 30) _____

In their business conduct (vs. 31) _____

In their worship (vs. 32-39) _____

Now make it personal. Take some time to think and pray about each of these areas in your own life. Do your priorities reflect your devotion to God? Are there any changes you want to make? What are you personally willing to promise to the Lord?

Make your own written agreement to the Lord, sealing the document with your name.

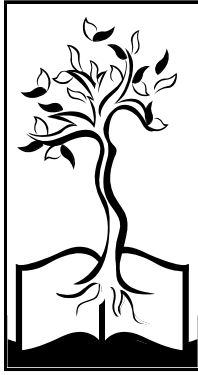
I will put the Lord first in my home/family by

I will put the Lord first in my business dealings by

I will put the Lord first in my worship by

✠ **“But now, O God, strengthen my hands.”** ✠

Nehemiah 6:9



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

You never change areas of your life that have not been given serious thought.

We need to schedule some quiet times in our lives,
times for thinking and reflection.

Change comes on the heels of deep, honest thinking.

- Charles Swindoll -
Hand Me Another Brick



The Rebuilt Life: Studies in Nehemiah

Nehemiah Ch. 12-13

Inductive Women's Bible Study – Lesson 9

Happy endings are nice. But they aren't always real. As you set out to read the last two chapters of Nehemiah, remind yourself that you are reading history—not fiction. Had Nehemiah wanted only to give a glowing report, he would have finished with the joyous dedication of the wall. But there is more to the story. In stark contrast to the rejoicing at the dedication ceremony, Nehemiah's last chapter finds the people have lost ground. They have gone from revival into relapse. Together, these chapters remind us to be watchful. Gains must be guarded. Surely this is what Nehemiah would advise if he were with us today.

Background While lists of names are easy to skip over, it's fitting to remember the contribution of bygone generations. This is what Nehemiah does before telling about the dedication ceremonies. Nehemiah's list begins with the first generation of leaders who returned with Zerubbabel (12:1-9). He then lists six generations of high priests (12:10-11) from the time of Zerubbabel up to the time of his writing. The final list (12:12-21) was a second generation of leaders, listed by household names. Nehemiah's generation (those who signed the covenant in chapter 10) had already been recorded.

So the dedication of the wall was a time for remembering and rejoicing. It was also a time of fresh beginnings. Jerusalem was a new city with newly settled inhabitants. The walls are strong and the people are dedicated. Spiritual revival has made Jerusalem a city of promise—all is well, at last!

After twelve years as governor (13:6), Nehemiah returned to the king. It's reasonable to guess that he had made trips back and forth to report to the king during this period. But this was an extended absence. Some time later, with the king's permission, Nehemiah returned to his beloved Jerusalem—only to find that things had gone terribly wrong.



Getting started. Find a quiet place to study. Take your Bible, your lesson and any other study tools you want to use. Plan to spend about an hour each day on your lesson. **Pray.** Take time to settle your heart, focus your thoughts and ask the Lord to help you see with clear eyes.

"Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in Your law." – Psalm 119:18 NLT

Nehemiah Ch. 12-13 Read the passage two or three times without interruption. If possible, read from more than one Bible translation. Briefly describe in your own words what is happening.

With each lesson, a “working” text is provided for your convenience. You can use this to scribble notes, write down word definitions, highlight events—whatever you find useful to your own personal study. The translation used will vary from week to week.

Working Text for Nehemiah Ch. 12:27 – 13:31

New International Version (NIV)

27 At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres. 28 The singers also were brought together from the region around Jerusalem—from the villages of the Netophathites, 29 from Beth Gilgal, and from the area of Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem. 30 When the priests and Levites had purified themselves ceremonially, they purified the people, the gates and the wall.

31 I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks. One was to proceed on top of the wall to the right, toward the Dung Gate. 32 Hoshaiah and half the leaders of Judah followed them, 33 along with Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, 34 Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah, 35 as well as some priests with trumpets, and also Zechariah son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph, 36 and his associates—Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah and Hanani—with musical instruments [prescribed by] David the man of God. Ezra the scribe led the procession. 37 At the Fountain Gate they continued directly up the steps of the City of David on the ascent to the wall and passed above the house of David to the Water Gate on the east.

38 The second choir proceeded in the opposite direction. I followed them on top of the wall, together with half the people—past the Tower of the Ovens to the Broad Wall, 39 over the Gate of Ephraim, the Jeshanah Gate, the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate. At the Gate of the Guard they stopped.

40 The two choirs that gave thanks then took their places in the house of God; so did I, together with half the officials, 41 as well as the priests—Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah and Hananiah with their trumpets— 42 and also Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malkijah, Elam and Ezer. The choirs sang under the direction of Jezrahiah.

43 And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.

44 At that time men were appointed to be in charge of the storerooms for the contributions, firstfruits and tithes. From the fields around the towns they were to bring into the storerooms the portions required by the Law for the priests and the Levites, for Judah was pleased with the ministering priests and Levites. 45 They performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did also the singers and gatekeepers, according to the commands of David and his son Solomon. 46 For long ago, in the days of David and Asaph, there had been directors for the singers and for the songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. 47 So in the days of Zerubbabel and of Nehemiah, all Israel contributed the daily portions for the singers and gatekeepers. They also set aside the portion for the other Levites, and the Levites set aside the portion for the descendants of Aaron.

Note on 13:1- *On that day...* It appears that some time has passed between chapters 12 and 13. Many Bible scholars believe the public reading Nehemiah refers to in 13:1-3 took place on a later occasion (perhaps in commemoration of the dedication) since Nehemiah's statements in vs. 4 ("*before this*") and vs. 6 ("*but while all this was going on*") imply the passage of time.

Nehemiah 13

1 On that day the Book of Moses was read aloud in the hearing of the people and there it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever be admitted into the assembly of God, 2 because they had not met the Israelites with food and water but had hired Balaam to call a curse down on them. (Our God, however, turned the curse into a blessing.) 3 When the people heard this law, they excluded from Israel all who were of foreign descent.

4 Before this, Eliashib the priest had been put in charge of the storerooms of the house of our God. He was closely associated with Tobiah, 5 and he had provided him with a large room formerly used to store the grain offerings and incense and temple articles, and also the tithes of grain, new wine and oil prescribed for the Levites, singers and gatekeepers, as well as the contributions for the priests. 6 But while all this was going on, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had returned to the king.

Some time later, I asked his permission 7 and came back to Jerusalem. Here I learned about the evil thing Eliashib had done in providing Tobiah

How long was Nehemiah gone? Scholars speculate anywhere from 1-20 years. We infer it was long enough for old habits to resurface and take root.

a room in the courts of the house of God. 8 I was greatly displeased and threw all Tobiah's household goods out of the room. 9 I gave orders to purify the rooms, and then I put back into them the equipment of the house of God, with the grain offerings and the incense.

10 I also learned that the portions assigned to the Levites had not been given to them, and that all the Levites and singers responsible for the service had gone back to their own fields. 11 So I rebuked the officials and asked them, "Why is the house of God neglected?" Then I called them together and stationed them at their posts. 12 All Judah brought the tithes of grain, new wine and oil into the storerooms. 13 I put Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and a Levite named Pedaiah in charge of the storerooms and made Hanan son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah, their assistant, because these men were considered trustworthy. They were made responsible for distributing the supplies to their brothers. 14 Remember me for this, O my God, and do not blot out what I have so faithfully done for the house of my God and its services.

15 In those days I saw men in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads. And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Therefore I warned them against selling food on that day. 16 Men from Tyre who lived in Jerusalem were bringing in fish and all kinds of merchandise and selling them in Jerusalem on the Sabbath to the people of Judah. 17 I rebuked the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this wicked thing you are doing- desecrating the Sabbath day? 18 Didn't your forefathers do the same things, so that our God brought all this calamity upon us and upon this city? Now you are stirring up more wrath against Israel by desecrating the Sabbath." 19 When evening shadows fell on the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be shut and not opened until the Sabbath was over. I stationed some of my own men at the gates so that no load could be brought in on the Sabbath day. 20 Once or twice the merchants and sellers of all kinds of goods spent the night outside Jerusalem. 21 But I warned them and said, "Why do you spend the night by the wall? If you do this again, I will lay hands on you." From that time on they no longer came on the Sabbath. 22 Then I commanded the Levites to purify themselves and go and guard the gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember me for this also, O my God, and show mercy to me according to your great love.

23 Moreover, in those days I saw men of Judah who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon and Moab. 24 Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod or the language of one of the other peoples, and did not know how to speak the language of Judah. 25 I rebuked them and called curses down on them. I beat some of the men and pulled out their hair. I made them take an oath in God's name and said: "You are not to give your daughters in marriage to their sons, nor are you to take their daughters in marriage for your sons or for yourselves. 26 Was it not because of marriages like these that Solomon king of Israel sinned? Among the many nations there was no king like him. He was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel, but even he was led into sin by foreign women. 27 Must we hear now that you too are doing all this terrible wickedness and are being unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women?" 28 One of the sons of Joiada son of Eliashib the high priest was son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite. And I drove him away from me. 29 Remember them, O my God, because they defiled the priestly office and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites.

30 So I purified the priests and the Levites of everything foreign, and assigned them duties, each to his own task. 31 I also made provision for contributions of wood at designated times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me with favor, O my God.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION
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OBSERVATION – *What do I see?*

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Follow along with Nehemiah as he tells his story. Look for clues that tell you when and where the story is taking place. Who else is mentioned and what part do they play? What events have taken place? What is happening now? How does Nehemiah respond?

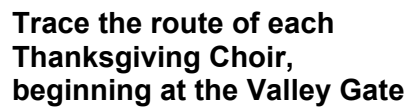
Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources. You may want to look up names and places in a Bible dictionary, map or encyclopedia. What else can you discover about the people and places mentioned in this chapter?

You can also use this section to jot down your own thoughts and impressions about people and events. What do you observe about Nehemiah's character? What challenges or problems does he face? What do you observe in the character and behavior of others in the story?

Bible Facts and Information:

[illegible]

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a thin black border around its edges.



Nehemiah 13:1-9

Bible Facts and Information:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Nehemiah 13:10-22

[illegible]

My Research and Observations:

[illegible]

Nehemiah 13:23-31

Bible Facts and Information:

My Research and Observations:



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as, “Is there a command to obey? A promise to claim? A condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**



APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new lesson, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Nehemiah 12:27-47

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 13:1-9

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 13:10-22

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Nehemiah 13:23-31

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take A Closer Look

“Remember me, O my God, for good.”

Nehemiah 13:31 (NAS)

How characteristic of Nehemiah to close his journal with a prayer. Four times in this last chapter, Nehemiah prays one of his “remember” prayers. Some have said this is because he was feeling so discouraged. If so, his fervent prayer was the right response. But by all accounts, Nehemiah was a man who consciously lived every day in the presence of God. What more natural response could we expect from him?

God answered Nehemiah’s “remember me” prayers! His persistent faith and unwavering obedience is forever recorded in God’s Word. As you close out your study of this book, ask yourself what life lessons you can learn from this godly man about:

Submission to God _____

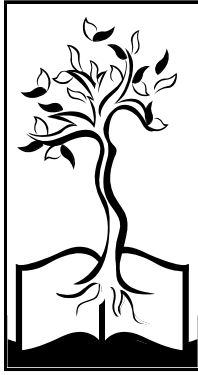
Prayer _____

Focusing on goals _____

Wisdom in difficult situations _____

Courage _____

For you personally, what is the most important example from Nehemiah’s life? _____



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

O God, may this be not an end but a beginning.
Give me the same burden that You gave Nehemiah—the burden to see
broken down walls rebuilt,
and Your honor fully restored in the midst of Your people.
In Jesus' Name. Amen.
- Selwyn Hughes -

