

the RESTORATION MAN

A series in the Old Testament
book of Nehemiah

What is the series about?

Nehemiah is a man in the Old Testament book of the Bible who is responsible for looking after King Artaxerxes - particularly serving Him wine. While doing this job he finds out that the temple walls in his hometown of Jerusalem have been destroyed and he leads the project of rebuilding them. Nehemiah's restoring work was but a shadow of the greater and final restoring work that Jesus did through his life, death, resurrection and ascension.

Listen to the audio

On the King's Norwich app or at:
kingsnorwich.com/nehemiah

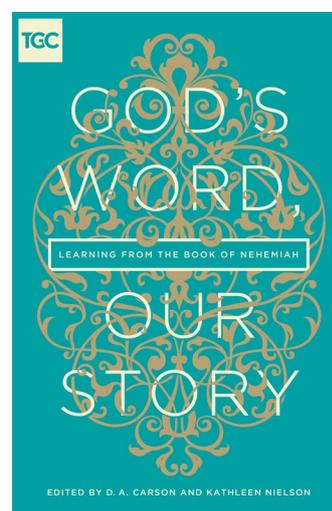
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Recommended Reading

God's Word, Our Story

D.A. Carson & Kathleen Nielson



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Title: Remember the Lord.

Speaker: Ben Coleman (City Centre & City West)

Bible Ref: Nehemiah 4:1-15

Overview

Fierce opposition has begun to arise against the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls from Sanballat the Governor of neighbouring Samaria. His political power is threatened by the prospect of Jerusalem being restored to its former strength. This opposition is shown through mocking and plots of violence. The Jews who heard the threats reacted in fear (*verse 12*). However, Nehemiah exhorts the people "*Don't be afraid of them*" (*verse 14*). The reason he could say "*don't be afraid*" to a people facing threats of violence and death is because of the three words that he said next: "*remember the Lord.*"

Like the Israelites we have a choice: will we "dwell in the house of fear or dwell in the house of the Lord". How do we leave the house of fear? We remember the Lord. First, we look back and remember what God has done. Second, we look forward and remember what God has promised.

Questions to help your group understand the truth preached

On Sundays we hear God's word preached and as we listen well we trust that God is changing us in the moment. Use these questions to further explore the truth that was taught.

1. What was Nehemiah's first response when faced with mocking and ridicule?
(In verse 4 he prayed rather than retaliating or running)
2. How would looking back and remembering Israel's history have given Nehemiah courage?
(Israel's history was one story after another of God delivering his people and leading them to safety and blessing. If he'd done it before then he'd do it again)

Questions to help your group apply the truth preached

When applied, God's Word will enable us to love God and to love others. These questions will help your group apply the truth understood in a way that leads to transformed lives.

1. What opposition have you faced when you have stepped out for Jesus?
2. Are there any stories of God's faithfulness in your life that would encourage us?
3. How does remembering the promises of God give us courage?

Questions to help your group dig deeper

Having understood the truth preached, and explored how it can be applied to your lives why not dig a little deeper and ask your group the following questions:

1. *2 Corinthians 1:20* tells us all God's promises are "Yes" in Christ. In what way did the promises Nehemiah was looking forward to find their fulfillment in Jesus?
(Nehemiah was looking forward to the security that city walls would bring. In Jesus we have the ultimate secure foundation: guaranteed by the finished work of Jesus on the cross)
2. Are there any promises that God has been reminding you of and asking you to remember?