BIG IDEA: **God calls us not merely to begin with faith, but to finish with faithfulness.**

- What is one project, commitment, or goal you started enthusiastically but found difficult to finish? What made finishing hard?

1. Don't Be Distracted | Nehemiah 6:1–4

Sanballat and Geshem repeatedly invite Nehemiah away from Jerusalem. Nehemiah recognizes the danger and refuses to leave the work.

I. Why might the invitation to meet have appeared reasonable? What did Nehemiah understand that others might have missed? _____

II. What does his response in verse 3 reveal about his priorities? _____

III. What are some "good" or urgent activities that can quietly displace what matters most in our relationships, discipleship, or service? _____

IV. How can we distinguish a distraction from a genuine opportunity to love and serve someone?

_____

Cross-reference: Hebrews 12:1. What "weight" might you need to lay aside to run faithfully?

2. Don't Get Discouraged | Nehemiah 6:5–9

When the invitations fail, an unsealed letter spreads accusations about Nehemiah's motives. He answers truthfully and prays, "Now strengthen my hands."

I. How is an attack on someone's motives different from disagreement about a decision?

_____

II. Why is "Now strengthen my hands" a helpful prayer when we feel weary or misunderstood?

_____

III. What practical forms of rest, encouragement, or help can support someone who is carrying a heavy responsibility? _____

Cross-reference: Isaiah 40:31. How does hope in the Lord shape perseverance without ignoring our need for rest? _____

3. Don't Compromise | Nehemiah 6:10–14

Shemaiah's warning sounds spiritual, but Nehemiah discerns an attempt to frighten him into acting wrongly. He refuses.

I. Why can advice that sounds spiritual still require careful discernment?

_____

II. How can Scripture, godly wisdom, and the character of Jesus help us test advice?

_____

III. What small justifications can lead people to compromise their integrity? _____

IV. Why does the way we pursue a goal matter as much as the result? _____

Conclusion: Finish Well | Nehemiah 6:15–16

The wall is completed in fifty-two days. The surrounding nations recognize that God helped accomplish the work.

I. What does verse 16 teach us about who deserves the glory when an assignment is completed?

_____

II. In the sermon, a faithful legacy is described as more than what we build: it includes who we help become followers of Jesus. Who are you helping grow? _____

- Read 2 Timothy 4:7. What might "I have kept the faith" look like in your current season of life?

  _____

Personal Response and Prayer

1. FOCUS: What distraction do I need to say no to? _____

2. STRENGTH: Where do I need to pray, "Lord, strengthen my hands"? _____

3. INTEGRITY: Is there an area where fear or pressure is tempting me to compromise? _____

Closing prayer: Lord, give us wisdom to recognize distractions, strength when we are discouraged, and courage to remain faithful. May the work of our hands honour You, and may the people we serve grow stronger in Jesus. Amen.