

Group Questions

1. Why do you think Nehemiah answered Sanballat in 2:20 but did not respond to them in chapter 4?
2. In Nehemiah's day, Sanballat and Tobiah were mocking those rebuilding the wall. Today God's people are still striving to advance His kingdom, what form does mocking from our enemies take today?
 - a. How do you most often respond?
3. Nehemiah prayed that God would not allow unrepentant sin to go unpunished. Against whom and against what would/should we pray if we were to follow Nehemiah's example today?
 - a. How might/does grace come into play in these situations?
4. Nehemiah led the people to set a guard against the enemies day and night (4:9). What should God's people be on guard against day and night today?
 - a. What does setting a guard look like to you?
5. In 4:12 other Jews were discouraging those at work on the walls. How do Christians discourage other Christians today? Are there any ways that you yourself might discourage other Christians?
 - a. How might we do the opposite, (what are ways we can/should encourage one another?)
6. Why did Nehemiah redouble his defenses and rebuilding efforts in the face of discouragement (4:13)? What were his other options? Why was taking action his best option?
7. How might you direct the eyes of others to the great and awe-inspiring Lord, as Nehemiah did (4:14)?
8. In 4:16-17 the people work with a weapon in one hand and a tool in the other. If God's people were to follow this example today, what would be analogous to the weapon, and what would be analogous to the tool?
9. In a military battle, sometimes leaders direct the action from the rear, and sometimes they place themselves at the point of crisis, as Nehemiah did (4:18-20). Which do you think a leader should do in the kinds of spiritual battles a church faces today?
10. What are ways that the leader of a church might model sacrificial devotion, as Nehemiah did in 4:20, 23? How can you model this kind of leadership over those who God has placed under your care?