

Leader's Guide

Strengthening the Family

Build That Wall

Pastor Ben Pippen

July 26, 2026

Conversation Goal

To help group members recognize that God has uniquely positioned each of them to strengthen the church, identify where He is inviting them to "build their section of the wall," and respond with renewed commitment to participate in His work through the local church.

Synopsis

Ben reminded us that God never intended His people to build His kingdom alone. Just as every person in Nehemiah's day rebuilt a portion of Jerusalem's wall, every follower of Jesus has been given a unique place to strengthen Christ's church. As we resist discouragement and fear, work together in unity, and faithfully use the gifts God has entrusted to us, we become a living testimony of God's love to a watching world.

Discussion Question 1

God has given every believer a place on the wall.

Teaching Point

One of the beautiful themes in Nehemiah 3 is that everyone participated. Priests, merchants, craftsmen, and families all contributed differently, but everyone contributed. God isn't asking us to do everything. He's inviting each of us to faithfully steward the place He's entrusted to us.

Discussion Question

Ben repeatedly asked, **"Where is your station on the wall?"** What do you think that question means for us today? Where do you sense God has uniquely positioned or gifted you to strengthen His church?

Follow-Up Prompts

- Why do you think it's tempting to compare our role with someone else's?
- What gifts, experiences, or passions has God given you that could bless others?

- Have you ever discovered a place of ministry that felt like "this is what God made me for"?
- What keeps people from stepping into their place?
- How have others helped you discover your gifts?

Additional Scripture

- Romans 12:4-8
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-27
 - Ephesians 2:10
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Discussion Question 2

Remember who the real enemy is.

Teaching Point

Ben pointed out that the greatest threat in Nehemiah wasn't ultimately the enemies outside the wall but the discouragement, exhaustion, and fear inside God's people. Satan often uses weariness, misunderstanding, or frustration to divide believers. Recognizing the real battle helps us protect unity rather than turning on one another.

Discussion Question

What kinds of discouragement or fear most often keep Christians from fully engaging in God's work? How can we recognize when we're fighting the wrong battle?

Follow-Up Prompts

- Why is discouragement so contagious?
- When have you experienced God strengthening you through Christian community?
- How can we distinguish between healthy conflict and unhealthy division?
- What practices help you stay spiritually encouraged?
- How can our group become a place where people are strengthened rather than discouraged?

Additional Scripture

- Ephesians 6:10-18
- Galatians 6:9-10
- Hebrews 10:23-25

Discussion Question 3

The church becomes a powerful witness when believers build together.

Teaching Point

Jesus prayed that His followers would be one so that the world would believe (John 17). Healthy churches don't become compelling because they're perfect; they become compelling because people witness love, humility, forgiveness, and shared purpose. Our unity is part of our evangelism.

Discussion Question

Ben said, *"The world knows how to fight, but the church chooses to build."* What would it look like for our church to be known more for what we build together than for what we disagree about?

Follow-Up Prompts

- When have you seen the church beautifully reflect Christ?
- Why do you think unity makes such a powerful witness?
- What practical habits strengthen a church family?
- How does serving together deepen relationships?
- What kind of church would you want future generations to inherit?

Additional Scripture

- John 13:34-35
 - Matthew 5:14-16
 - Philippians 2:1-5
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Discussion Question 4

God invites us to respond with faithful obedience.

Teaching Point

Throughout the sermon, Ben emphasized that building God's church doesn't happen by accident. It happens as ordinary believers consistently say "yes" to the work God places before them. Often, the next step isn't dramatic, but simply faithfully building the section of the wall that's right in front of us.

Discussion Question

As you reflect on this week's message, where might God be inviting you to "pick up your trowel" this season? What is one practical step you could take this week to strengthen Christ's church?

Follow-Up Prompts

- Is God inviting you to serve, encourage, mentor, invite, pray, or reconcile?
- What feels exciting about that opportunity?
- What feels intimidating?
- Who has invested in your spiritual growth, and how might you do the same for someone else?
- How can this group encourage you as you take your next step?

Additional Scripture

- Colossians 3:23-24
- 1 Peter 4:10-11
- James 1:22-25