

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

### God specializes in using ordinary people.

Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work. Nehemiah 2:18 NLT

### When you step out to do the work of God, your enemy will step in to oppose you.

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews,... Nehemiah 4:1

### Your enemy will attempt to discourage you from the outside—criticism.

Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!" Nehemiah 4:3

### When facing opposition, we pray and get back to work.

Then I prayed, "Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked." Nehemiah 4:4 NLT

So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart. ... They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. Nehemiah 4:6, 8

### Your enemy will attempt to discourage you from the inside.

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall." Nehemiah 4:10

1. You get fatigued.
2. You get frustrated.
3. You think you have failed.

### How to Lead Beyond Discouragement...

After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." Nehemiah 4:14

- Don't be afraid.
- Remember the Lord.
- Fight!

### Let's Connect

What obstacles did you face this week?

### Let's Talk About It

Nehemiah's life is the story of what the great and awesome God can do through someone who makes himself available to God. Nehemiah overcomes the opposition and discouragement he faced while rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. Whenever you rise up to move forward for God, the enemy will try to stop you. One of his greatest weapons is discouragement. When you're discouraged, don't be afraid, remember the Lord and rise up to fight for your cause.

1 Peter 5:7; Nehemiah 2:18; Nehemiah 4; Galatians 6:9; Romans 5:6-8

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Pastor Gregg said that whenever you move forward for God, the enemy will rise up to stop you. How have you experienced this resistance in your own life?
- Read Nehemiah 4:1-6. Think about a work God is calling you to do. How have you seen the enemy's discouragement in the form of criticism? Instead of getting distracted, how might praying and getting back to work be a better way to move forward?
- Read Nehemiah 4:10. When you're physically and emotionally exhausted, you're more apt to succumb to discouragement. Discuss with your Grace Group what you can do to fight through fatigue, frustration and the overwhelming sense of failure that discouragement can bring.
- Read Nehemiah 4:13-14. Pastor Gregg encouraged us to lead beyond discouragement by not giving in to fear, remembering the Lord who is "great and awesome" and rising up to fight. What would this practically look like in your life?
- Read Romans 5:6-8. How does knowing that Jesus fought for you, help you understand how God sees you, how much he loves you and stoke your courage to fight?

### Take a Step

- Share with God the opposition and discouragement you currently face. Take time to remember God and reflect on how your Jesus fought for you.
- SOAP reading: **Day 1:** Psalm 69, Matthew 12; **Day 2:** Psalm 81, Matthew 13; **Day 3:** Psalm 98, Matthew 14; **Day 4:** Psalm 110, Matthew 15; **Day 5:** Psalm 129, Matthew 16; **Day 6:** Psalm 141, Matthew 17; **Day 7:** Psalm 17, Matthew 18

### Here's My Prayer

- Father, thank You for Your love and for all You've done and will continue to do in my life. Stir in me the faith I need to rise up and fight for the cause You've placed on my heart.
- Heavenly Father, thank you for miraculously bringing us to *The Willows* property. Please increase our faith and courage as we focus on You and move forward together in the process of taking possession of *The Willows*.