

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - Building the Future
Topic - Staying on Mission (Neh 6:1-19)

Date - 14-Jun-2020
Speaker - SP Ben KC Lee

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. My God Reigns
2. Living Hope

BIBLE READING PLAN [10 min]

Take some time to talk about the Bible Reading Plan. The time of sharing can include the following:

- a) How's everyone's progress so far?
- b) What are some things that God has spoken to you through the various readings?

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Recognise we will need to stand firm against the schemes of the evil one
2. Remember that God is much bigger than our tasks.

The following are the key points of the sermon:

- 1. God has a Big Task for You!**
 - You do not have time to be Distracted (vv 1-4)
 - You cannot afford to be Discouraged (vv 5-9)
 - You are going to have to be Discerning (vv 10-14)
- 2. God is Bigger than Your Task!**
 - The enemy does not stop (vv 17-19)
 - Your labour in the Lord is not in vain (v 15)
 - Look who got the credit (v 16)

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

2 Timothy 3:12 says that we will face opposition for living a godly life. Ps Ben gave a brief recap on the main themes of opposition found in Nehemiah 4-6:

Nehemiah 4 - external opposition through threats and ridicule

Nehemiah 5 - internal opposition through division and anger

Nehemiah 6 - personal opposition from outsiders and insiders.

The fast rebuilding of the wall did not sit well for Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem who led Samaria, Ammon and the Arabs. They came up with a new plan to concentrate the attacks on Nehemiah. They now resorted to personal attacks to create fear in his heart and that of the workers because fear destroys faith and paralyzes life. We will face personal attacks for God when we do His work and we are called to stay on mission.

1st Spiritual Truth to stay on mission: God has a Big Task for you!

Nehemiah's enemies thought of different schemes to harm him. Ps Ben shared with us three principles to stay on track.

1. The first principle: You don't have time to be Distracted
 - Scheme #1 - Compromise (vv2-4)
 - They attempted to distract Nehemiah out of the city with negotiation and possibly, to kidnap him.
 - Response: Continual Focus on God's Work (vv2b-4)
 - Nehemiah remembered that Sanballat threatened his people weeks earlier.
 - He was convinced of the great work God had given him.
 - They had nothing in common so there was no basis for cooperation.
 - Let us stand firm and live with biblical priorities when we are tempted and what distracts us from the mission. The enemy is persistent in interruption (1 Peter 5:8B),

2. The second principle: You can't afford to be Discouraged
 - Scheme #2 - False Accusation (vv 5-9) from the open letter by Sanballat, gossip and fake news spread easily and affect us from doing our mission.
 - Response: Rebut and Pray (vv 8-9)
 - Nehemiah immediately denied this public accusation. He prayed (vv9b) for strength and wisdom.

3. The third principle: You're going to be Discerning
 - Scheme #3 - intimidation (vv 10-14)
 - Response: Discern and Obey God's Word
 - Nehemiah saw through their plot to use Shemaiah their motives (v 13).
 - Fear is a terrible motivator for decision making.

Pastor Ben also shared three questions to consider if the counsel is godly:

- Does the counsel contradict Scripture?
- Does it violate your character?
- Does it hinder your commitment to follow Jesus?

Nehemiah maintained a clear understanding of Scripture (v 11b) and took his troubles to God in prayer (v 14), Resist the enemy, stay on mission and see the fruit of perseverance.

2nd Spiritual Truth to Stay on Mission: God is bigger than your task!

- Tobiah was related to influential Jewish families by marriage and he had tried to scare Nehemiah into doing something rash though the wall had been rebuilt, deception continued. Ministry is not just work but it is spiritual warfare.
- Your labour in the Lord is not in vain - it will reach completion. The wall was rebuilt in 52 days when the people did not previously manage to do so in 80 years.
- Work hard as the labour in the Lord (1 Cor 15:58) and be fully dependent on God for success.
- Look who got the credit (v 16) - Nehemiah gave glory to God. All of us have a great work to which God has called us. We cannot afford to get side-tracked. God is bigger than our task. He will help us complete our mission for His glory.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Read Nehemiah 6:13 which gives a good summary of Nehemiah's enemies' strategy against him throughout the chapter. How did Nehemiah respond to the different schemes against him? What are the lessons you learnt from Nehemiah's example, and how can you apply these in your own life? [10 min]**

Leaders' Notes

This is a recap and relate question. The enemies had different schemes against Nehemiah (vv. 1-4, vv 5-9, vv 10-14). Leaders can choose one segment to focus on and can choose to ask the following questions for members to consider.

On compromise:

What were Nehemiah's priorities? What are your priorities and convictions?

What are some safeguards in our lives to help us say no to temptations?

On false accusations:

Were there times where you were discouraged by what people said? How did you respond? How are we to respond to false accusations and to the people who made these accusations?

On intimidation:

Why is fear a bad motivator for decision making? How does it affect us? How then are we to respond? What lesson can we learn from this passage concerning the importance of remembering God's Word when facing intimidation?

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

Nehemiah models for us what it means to stand firm and strong in spite of the opposition he faced. He recognised that doing God's task would bring with it challenges and opposition.

- 2. How can we as believers grow in character and discernment to stand firm against the schemes of the evil one? [15 min]**

Leaders' Notes

This is a reflect question. Ephesians 6:11-18 speaks of the Armour of God so that we can be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. God has given us His Word and Spirit so we will have wisdom and protection against the evil one. Leaders can get members to share with one another how they discern what is right from wrong and what are some*

practical guidelines they have placed in their personal lives? Do they seek God, His Word and Godly counsel? What does it mean to grow in character and what are the characteristics we as believers are to model in this day and age?

** Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, Feet fitted with the Gospel of Peace, Shield of Faith, Helmet of Salvation and Sword of the Spirit.*

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

We are in this journey of discipleship and we will continue to grow in discernment and character as we continue to seek God and take up our cross. Nehemiah was a role model for us in this aspect.

- 3. Nehemiah responded with focus, courage and discernment. He looked to God and was steadfast in doing God's work. Share with your cell about an area you would like to seek prayer and wisdom on how to respond. [15 min]**

Leaders' Notes

This is a response question. Galatians 6:2 tells us to bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Proverbs 11:14 speaks of victory being won through having a multitude of counsellors. We need encouragement to be focused on God's Word and drawing upon His wisdom to overcome the schemes of the evil one. Members can break into smaller groups to share and pray for one another.

Closing

God has called us to a Big Task and there will be times when we face discouragement, fear and accusations when doing His work. May we remember that God is Bigger than these Tasks and hold tight to His Word to guide us in these times.

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. COVID-19

- Pray for the community cases to decrease and for the spread to stop.
- Pray for early detection of those who are asymptomatic
- Pray for protection for our schools and workplaces that have opened in Phase 1.
- Pray for Christians to continue to grow and share the good news during this season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. RLC Updates via Whatsapp and Telegram

We desire for the church to be connected during this season of segregation. As such, do this activity to help your members stay updated with RLC:

You can now have RiverLife updates delivered to you via WhatsApp or Telegram! More information available at: rlc.sg/subscribe



WhatsApp

1. Click on this link: <http://wa.me/6589231939?text=Subscribe>
2. Send "Subscribe" in the WhatsApp chat.
3. Add **+65 8923 1939** to your phone contacts as RiverLife Church.
4. You will be added to our broadcast list within 2 working days.

Before subscribing, you will need to have WhatsApp Messenger installed on your device. After subscribing, updates can only be received when **+65 8923 1939** is saved in your phone's contact list.



Telegram

1. Click on this link: <https://t.me/RiverLifeChurch>
2. Select "Join Channel"

Before subscribing, you will need to have Telegram installed on your device.

2. Bible Reading Plan.

You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp.

Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.
Scan this QR code on the right.

SCAN ME



2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account:
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0
Bank Code: 7171
Branch Code: 029

