



City life: crowds of people, traffic congestion, asphalt and concrete, schools, government, culture, community . . . All of us know what it's like to live in a city. But did you know that God is in the process of building a city of his own right in the midst of our city? Although the story of the Bible starts in the garden (Gen. 1-2), it ends in a city (Rev. 21). And in between God invites us to join him in building his city right where we live. How do we do this? What does this look like? How do we deal with opposition? These are just some of the questions we are going to answer as we dig into the book of Nehemiah. I hope you are ready to let God use you to build his city in our city!

Discussion Questions: (Leaders please review each question and pick those that will be most beneficial for your group.)

1. Read Nehemiah 2. God is looking for one man, or woman, like Nehemiah, to build his city (a.k.a. his church) in our city today. In Nehemiah 2 we see five marks of the man God uses: In v.1a, we learn that the man God uses perseveres in prayer. When was the last time you persevered in prayer for someone or something? What broken down walls will you persevere in prayer for until God answers?
2. Next, looking at vv.1b-9, we learn that the man God uses is ready to respond when God answers. What are you praying for today that if God answered that prayer you would be ready with a plan? If not, as you pray will you ask God to show you how he wants you to respond, so when He answers you will be ready?
3. The man God uses gets personally involved in the work of building God's city (vv.11-16). How are you personally involved in building God's city? What is keeping you from getting more personally involved? How will you get more personally involved?
4. In vv.17-18 the man God uses shares his testimony with others. What testimony can you give that God is at work in your life? Will you share this with others so God will be glorified and he can use it to inspire faith in others?
5. The man God uses stands firm in the face of opposition (v.10 and vv.19-20). Nehemiah faced opposition to the work of building God's city. What opposition do we face today when it comes to building God's city in our city? What can we learn from Nehemiah's example in v.20 to stand firm in the face of opposition?
6. A man greater than Nehemiah persevered in prayer, had a plan, got personally involved, shared his testimony and stood firm in the face of opposition. This God man was Jesus Christ. And through faith in Jesus Christ, God wants to use you to build his city in our city. Will you be that man or woman? What do you need to surrender to Jesus (time, money, comfort, reputation, relationship, dream, job, other), to be the man, or woman, God can use to build his city in our city?