



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 6. In order to stay focused on building God's city, we must stand firm against all forms of opposition. Like Nehemiah we must stand firm against flattery (vv.1-4). How would you describe flattery? Nehemiah used discernment to stand firm against flattery. How will you grow in discernment to avoid Satan's traps?
2. Next in order to stay focused on building God's city, we must stand firm against slander (vv.5-9). What can we learn from Nehemiah's response to help us if/when we are falsely accused by others?
3. Like Nehemiah we must stand firm against false prophecy (Nehemiah 6:10-14). Looking at these four false teachings of our day, how will you, like Nehemiah, stand firm against them?
 - The false teaching of religion: "If you are a good person you will go to heaven."
 - The false teaching of faith healers: "If you just have enough faith then God will heal you."
 - The false teaching of the prosperity gospel: "If you obey God he will bless you and make you rich."
 - The false teaching of tolerance: "All religions lead to heaven."
4. Once the walls are rebuilt the opposition ends, right? Wrong. Even though the first phase of building God's city is complete, the opposition does not end. God's people have intermarried and are unequally yoked (vv.17-18), yet Nehemiah stands firm in the face of compromise. In what ways are you tempted to compromise your faith today? Looking at 1 John 2:15-16, how does compromise with the world hinder us from the work of building God's city?
5. Nehemiah was able to stand firm in the face of opposition because he lived out the principle found in James 4:7, "*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*" To submit means to willingly place yourself under another person's will or authority. What would it look like for you to willingly submit to the Lord? Do you trust the Lord to willingly place yourself under his authority no matter what? How would believing Hebrews 4:14-16 help you submit to the Lord even when it is difficult?