



# COMMUNITY GROUPS

## ALL IN: A STUDY OF NEHEMIAH

### SESSION 4: THE FULFILLMENT

Despite opposition, struggles, and threats, the time finally came when Nehemiah's God-inspired dream was fulfilled. This was no small task. In fact, consider these measurements of the wall:

- The wall was nearly 2.5 miles long
- The wall was an average of just over 39 feet tall
- And the wall was an average of 8.2 feet thick.

And yet, despite the size, length, and width of the wall, Nehemiah and the Jewish people completed its construction in only 52 days.

#### 1. When you read Nehemiah 6:15-16, what stands out to you the most? Why?

**Nehemiah 6:15-16 (NLT)** – So on October 2 the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun. When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.

#### 2. Seeing their dream fulfilled in 52 days didn't come without opposition and resistance. On multiple occasions, Tobiah and Sanballat ridiculed and threatened Nehemiah and the people.

**Nehemiah 4:1-3:** Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, <sup>2</sup>saying in front of his friends and the Samaritan army officers, "What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they're doing? Do they think they can build the wall in a single day by just offering a few sacrifices? Do they actually think they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap—and charred ones at that?" <sup>3</sup>Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, "That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!"

**How do we protect our hearts from growing cold, bitter, angry, or dejected when others criticize us and our dreams?**

#### 3. In an attempt to get Nehemiah to quit building the wall, Tobiah, Sanballat, & Gesham made threats and tried to distract him. But Nehemiah responded with these words:

**Nehemiah 6:3:** So I replied by sending this message to them: "I am engaged in a great work, so I can't come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?"

**Nehemiah 6:9:** They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination.

**What lessons can we learn from Nehemiah's response in the face of distractions, discouragement, and threats?**

4. The completion of the wall in such a short period of time was so remarkable that Nehemiah declared that their enemies “realized this work had been done with the help of our God” (Nehemiah 6:16). Can you point to a time in your life (or your family or friends life) that something was accomplished clearly because of the help of God?

5. The threats against Nehemiah were so great that a false prophet even uttered death threats against him. But Nehemiah responded with these words:

**Nehemiah 6:11:** “Should someone in my position run from danger? Should someone in my position enter the Temple to save his life? No, I won’t do it!”<sup>12</sup> I realized that God had not spoken to him, but that he had uttered this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.<sup>13</sup> They were hoping to intimidate me and make me sin. Then they would be able to accuse and discredit me.

**Courage is a very real part of pursuing a God-inspired dream. What does it look like to maintain courage in the face of fear?**

6. In what part of your life, or with what part of your dream, do you clearly need the help of God?

#### **PRAYER:**

Take time to encourage one another in areas where you are feeling discouraged or attacked. In addition, pray for one another in the areas where you clearly need God’s help.