

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FOR NEHEMIAH

1. Nehemiah makes a major life-change in moving to Jerusalem. According to the first part of this book, what prompted that move and how did Nehemiah prepare for the adventure? What promise in Nehemiah 1:8-9 does he have hope in? What does Nehemiah do before responding to the King's question in Chapter 2?
2. In Chapters 2, 4 and 6, Nehemiah and the people with him face major opposition. Why? How is fear a weapon of the enemy? How did Nehemiah respond and how did he encourage the people? How did the people respond? What insights does this provide for how we can deal with fear?
3. A pivotal moment in the book of Nehemiah is his prayer asking God to "strengthen his hands" (Nehemiah 6:9). Can you think of a pivotal prayer in your own life and share what happened as a result of that prayer?
4. How, specifically, was Nehemiah an example of a good leader? In addition to external opposition and threats, how did Nehemiah deal with internal dangers to the community as well (see Chapters 5 and 13)?
5. In Chapter 8, how did the reading of God's word help with the formation of the new community living in Jerusalem? How is reading and studying of God's word still important to the community of God's people today?
6. How did the people's collective prayers in Chapter 9, and rededication to do what was right in Chapter 10, draw them closer to God and to each other as a community?
7. Until the city's defensive wall was built up and fortified, the people of Jerusalem were vulnerable to physical attack. Likewise, when our spiritual defenses are down and we don't maintain and fortify them, we can be vulnerable to spiritual attack. What are some spiritual defenses that need to be built up in this season of your life? (See also Ephesians 6:10-18). Pray for the strengthening of each other's defenses.