

GROWTHguide

"Stay Strong"
February 11, 2018



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Nehemiah 1, Nehemiah 2, Nehemiah 3-4,
Nehemiah 5-6, Nehemiah 7-8

DAY 1

Read [Nehemiah 1](#)

Nehemiah gets the news about the destruction of the Jerusalem wall and gates. He immediately succumbs to a time of mourning over the devastation.

- **As he begins to mourn, what does he do?**
- **How do you handle bad news?**

Calling out to God in a great time of uncertainty is common. In fact, most people draw closer to God than they do when times are good.

- **Why do you feel that is the case?**
- **What promotes people to drift from God when times are good?**
- **What does he remind him of? Why?**

DAY 2

Read [Nehemiah 2](#)

Nehemiah had an important role in the court of the king. He uses that influence as a means to get the king to allow

him to go back and rebuild the walls. It's obvious Nehemiah suspected some obstacles along the way.

- **What does he ask of the king?**
- **How does he use the tools he is given?**

What is behind the "undercover exploration" of the situation in Jerusalem? For 142 years the walls lay in destruction. They had become accustomed to the rubble and never did anything about it.

- **What was Nehemiah to do in order to rally the people to get working?**
- **How do you work through times when you feel the status quo is as good as it gets?**
- **In what ways do you reorient your life to make changes and see progress?**

DAY 3

Read [Nehemiah 3-4](#)

Tobiah and Sanballat became furious over Nehemiah's plan to rebuild the wall. Why?

- **When have you had someone stand in your way of doing what you knew to be right?**
- **What did you do to overcome the obstacle?**

Name calling and bullying are techniques many use to stop something from happening. We discover when people fight us, and do everything to stop us from moving forward, it is usually motivated by *fear*.

- **What fears do you have?**
- **Reflect on this and write out some thoughts on how you deal with your fears, especially the unknown or when someone is bullying**

you.

The people decide to come together in rebuilding the wall. What changed?

- **What does Nehemiah do to ensure God's work can be accomplished?**
- **How does God get involved?**

DAY 4

Read [Nehemiah 5-6](#)

Pastor Bob pointed out on Sunday that fear can paralyze the believer. He also showed how two specific fears are **not true** when it comes to being faithful in God's work:

1. **Since you feel fear, what you are doing cannot be from God.** This is not true! All throughout the Bible we see examples of people wrestling with their human nature and their fear.
 - **Why is fear natural?**
 - **Can a true believer still have fears? Why or why not?**
2. **You can't be part of the plan unless God removes all your fears.** We all have to do things we are afraid of in life. If we opted out of everything we fear we would never take a chance on a new job, move to a new city, or make the risky life decisions that help us progress as people.
 - **What are your thoughts on this?**
 - **Have you ever done something in your life despite being afraid of it? What was the result?**

Nehemiah's story shows us that whenever you do something for God there will always be opposition and roadblocks.

- **Think about your own journey. What are the obstacles and roadblocks you had to confront?**

- **Why is being a person of faith difficult at times?**
- **Is there ever a time that as a person of faith you will stop having difficulties or challenges? Why or why not?**
- **How does Nehemiah respond to the obstacles being thrown at him?**

DAY 5

Read [Nehemiah 7-8](#)

What we have come to learn is doing God's work can be costly but the reward when finished is life changing.

- **What was the end result of Nehemiah and the people being faithful to God in rebuilding the Jerusalem wall?**

Chapter 8 tells us the importance of worship.

- **What do you think it meant to the people now that they could worship again?**

When we worship we are called to give our heart to God, in its entirety.

- **How do you feel about that?**
- **In what ways can you go deeper into worship and a greater celebration of your faith?**

DAY 6

Today is a day of reflection. Spend some time in prayer today and if there is anything that you are afraid of, or any obstacles you're facing, lift them up to God. Ask God to guide you in His work and thank Him for helping you to overcome your fears and challenges.