



NEHEMIAH

Wall-to-Wall Workers

Assessing the City Follow Up

- ❖ How have you been investigating your holy discontent?
- ❖ How are you learning about and experiencing the things that break God's heart?
- ❖ In what ways are you making room in your life to listen to the Holy Spirit's leading?

Read this passage to your group, and then discuss it based on the questions below:

In 1998, Hurricane Mitch devastated Nicaragua's North Atlantic Coast. Decades of government neglect pushed some Indigenous communities off the map of traditional relief operations. The big government sponsored responders didn't know where these villages were, what the specific needs were or much less how to reach them in flood conditions. But MADRE (a locally based women's needs organization) delivered aid directly to women who had grown up in the region. They knew where every family lived, which households had new babies or disabled elders, and how to reach remote communities by canoe because they knew these women and had relationships with them. MADRE's service was incredibly effective because they were relationally connected to the needs of the community. *Disaster to development: community women lead in times of crisis*, hopebuilding.pbwiki.com

- ❖ What are the needs that government run organizations have not had success in reaching?
- ❖ What are some mistakes aid agencies have made in responding to a need?
- ❖ Why was MADRE successful?
- ❖ Who is most acquainted with the needs of your family, neighborhood and community?
- ❖ Who is most responsible for meeting those needs?
- ❖ Can you support your position from scripture? Explain.

Recap Nehemiah 2:17-20

Nehemiah lays out the problem, "Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire."

Calls the people to take ownership in the solution, "Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and we will no longer be in disgrace."

After hearing that God's favor had been with Nehemiah, the people set about rebuilding the wall.

Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem ridiculed the rebuilding efforts and implied that the Israelites were rebelling against the Persian king.

Nehemiah weathers the criticism and pronounces his faith in God and in the success of rebuilding the wall.

Study the Scriptures

Nehemiah 3:1–32 NLT

¹Then Eliashib the high priest and the other priests started to rebuild at the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set up its doors, building the wall as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and the Tower of Hananel. ²People from the city of Jericho worked next to them, and beyond them was Zaccur son of Imri.

³The Fish Gate was built by the sons of Hassenaah. They did the whole thing—laid the beams, hung the doors, and put the bolts and bars in place. ⁴Meremoth son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz repaired the next section of wall. Beside him were Meshullam son of Berekiah and grandson of Meshezabel, and then Zadok son of Baana. ⁵Next were the people from Tekoa, though their leaders refused to help.

⁶The Old City Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid the beams, set up the doors, and installed the bolts and bars. ⁷Next to them were Melatiah from Gibeon, Jadon from Meronoth, and people from Gibeon and Mizpah, the headquarters of the governor of the province west of the Euphrates River. ⁸Next was Uzziel son of Harhaiah, a goldsmith by trade, who also worked on the wall. Beyond him was Hananiah, a manufacturer of perfumes. They left out a section of Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

⁹Rephaiah son of Hur, the leader of half the district of Jerusalem, was next to them on the wall. ¹⁰Next Jedaiah son of Harumaph repaired the wall beside his own house, and next to him was Hattush son of Hashabneiah. ¹¹Then came Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-moab, who repaired the Tower of the Ovens, in addition to another section of the wall. ¹²Shallum son of Hallohesh and his daughters repaired the next section. He was the leader of the other half of the district of Jerusalem.

¹³The people from Zanoah, led by Hanun, rebuilt the Valley Gate, hung its doors, and installed the bolts and bars. They also repaired the fifteen hundred feet of wall to the Dung Gate.

¹⁴The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Recab, the leader of the Beth-hakkerem district. After rebuilding it, he hung the doors and installed the bolts and bars.

¹⁵Shallum son of Col-hozeh, the leader of the Mizpah district, repaired the Fountain Gate. He rebuilt it, roofed it, hung its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. Then he repaired the wall of the pool of Siloam near the king's garden, and he rebuilt the wall as far as the stairs that descend from the City of David. ¹⁶Next to him was Nehemiah son of Azbuk, the leader of half the district of Beth-zur. He rebuilt the wall to a place opposite the royal cemetery as far as the water reservoir and the House of the Warriors.

¹⁷Next was a group of Levites working under the supervision of Rehum son of Bani. Then came Hashabiah, the leader of half the district of Keilah, who supervised the building of the wall on behalf of his own district. ¹⁸Next down the line were his countrymen led by Binnui son of Henadad, the leader of the other half of the district of Keilah.

¹⁹Next to them, Ezer son of Jeshua, the leader of Mizpah, repaired another section of wall opposite the armory by the buttress. ²⁰Next to him was Baruch son of Zabbai, who repaired an additional section from the buttress to the door of the home of Eliashib the high priest.

²¹Meremoth son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz rebuilt another section of the wall extending from a point opposite the door of Eliashib's house to the side of the house.

²²Then came the priests from the surrounding region. ²³After them, Benjamin, Hasshub, and Azariah son of Maaseiah and grandson of Ananiah repaired the sections next to their own houses. ²⁴Next was Binnui son of Henadad, who rebuilt another section of the wall from Azariah's house to the buttress and the corner. ²⁵Palal son of Uzai carried on the work from a point opposite the buttress and the corner to the upper tower that projects from the king's house beside the court of the guard. Next to him were Pedaiah son of Parosh ²⁶and the Temple servants living on the hill of Ophel, who repaired the wall as far as the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower. ²⁷Then came the people of Tekoa, who repaired another section opposite the great projecting tower and over to the wall of Ophel.

²⁸The priests repaired the wall up the hill from the Horse Gate, each one doing the section immediately opposite his own house. ²⁹Next Zadok son of Immer also rebuilt the wall next to his own house, and beyond him was Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, the gatekeeper of the East Gate. ³⁰Next Hananiah son of Shelemiah and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section, while Meshullam son of Berekiah rebuilt the wall next to his own house. ³¹Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the wall as far as the housing for the Temple servants and merchants, opposite the Inspection Gate. Then he continued as far as the upper room at the corner. ³²The other goldsmiths and merchants repaired the wall from that corner to the Sheep Gate.

Nehemiah chapter three is all about work—how individuals pitched in and did the work together, coordinated and led by Nehemiah. The work is described in reference to the gates of the wall; the gates were the critical entry and exit points to the city, and the places most likely to see an enemy attack. Eliashib the high priest is the first worker mentioned; he rose up to do the work with the other priests. The high priest is acting as a leader should; he is out in front of the work, leading by example—not acting as if he were too “spiritual” for the hard work of rebuilding the walls. There is a good reason why Eliashib is first mentioned, and why the rest of the chapter is filled with the names of more than fifty others who followed his example in the work. [David Guzik’s Commentaries on the Bible](#), David Guzik

Questions for discussion

- ❖ What are the different vocations described in the passage?
- ❖ Why were these men willing to put a hold on their careers and join the project?
- ❖ What might have been the cost to them, their families and their businesses?
- ❖ Why not “sub-contract” the labor out and pay for professional tradesmen to do the jobs?
- ❖ What were the benefits of working side by side with people of various backgrounds?
- ❖ How did the work affect the sense of community among the Israelites?

“Success on any major scale requires you to accept responsibility . . . In the final analysis, the one quality that all successful people have is the ability to take on responsibility.” Michael Korda *Editor-in-Chief, Simon & Schuster*

Please play the 15 minute video clip from the website, and then respond to the questions.

- ❖ Does anything help?
- ❖ How do we learn the needs of those around us?
- ❖ Respond to the quote, “We are wounded in relationship & our healing comes through relationship?”
- ❖ How can we turn charity in to development?
- ❖ What ways can you give dignity to those in need?
- ❖ How can our service transform us?

Going Deeper: If your group is in need of an extra challenge, consider this additional passage and questions:

Read 1 Peter 4:10

- ❖ What are the gifts that God has given you?
- ❖ Why has He given you these gifts?