Harvester Christian Church

Life Groups | **PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY**

NEHEMIAH | RETURN, RESTORE, REVIVE

**WEEK 4 – Chapter 6**

Our focus this week is on chapter 6 of Nehemiah. (Next week we will back up and pick up chapter 5.) As we will see, it is another passage in which opposition to Nehemiah’s work takes center stage. This week we get to celebrate with Nehemiah as work is completed on the wall in spite of incredible and unending opposition from those who wanted to see him fail.

**Please read Nehemiah 6.**

**More Opposition (6:1-14, 17-19)**

How would you describe the opposition recorded in Nehemiah 6:1-9?

Official correspondence in that day would have been written on papyrus or leather parchment and sealed so as to remain confidential until opened by the recipient. Why do you think this letter was unsealed (vs 6-7)?

What did Nehemiah conclude was the motive behind the unsealed letter (vs 9)?

For what did he pray?

How would you describe the additional form of opposition that is described in 6:10-14?

What was Nehemiah’s leadership like in chapter 6? What strengths did he display that kept the project on track in spite of great efforts to derail him?

**Completion of the Wall (6:15-16)**

Three very important developments are noted in these two verses. Each of them can be celebrated in the story of Nehemiah and also experienced in our lives on some level. Let’s take a look.

1. **The project is completed!**

Because Nehemiah was faithful to the mission and undeterred by the opposition, he got to see a great victory. Please read and summarize the following verses related to what God promises to those who keep at it and don’t give up.

Philippians 1:6

Galatians 6:9

Romans 2:6-7

1. **God gets credit and glory!**

From the beginning, Nehemiah sensed that God’s gracious hand was upon him (2:8) and he promised his men that God would be the one who would bring their project to the desired conclusion (2:20). Even the surrounding nations who had opposed the project recognized that this was the work of God (6:16).

Read Judges 7. What was God’s reason for shrinking the size of Gideon’s army before sending them into battle?

Read Acts 12:21-23. What reason is offered for Herod’s demise?

How would you summarize Paul’s view of his own ministry in I Corinthians 3:7-9?

1. **Enemies lose their self-confidence!**

When we allow God to work through us to accomplish what only He can accomplish, He has the ability to produce results that even our enemies cannot deny or stand against.

What is the lesson here in regard to any battle you may be fighting today?

**Weekly Challenge**

This is a good week for us to work on renewing our minds by reading, meditating on, and memorizing a key verse from God’s Word. Go to Philippians 1:6. This verse reminds us that God has been at work in us, is now at work in us, and will continue to work in us right up until the project is completed (which is when we are with Him in Heaven). Say this to yourself over and over this week. *He who began a good work in me will carry it on to completion!*

**Group Discussion**

Please share about a time when you learned to trust God to work through you or fight for you.

Share something you have tried to do by your own power rather than trusting in God’s power.

What would be some of the indications you are relying on yourself too much and not on God’s power?

Why do you think God wants us to learn to trust Him and allow Him to work in our lives?

Was there anything else from the reading or the lesson you wanted to discuss this week?