

CURRENT SERIES

REVIVE

...A SECOND WIND

Small Group Participant Guide

Nehemiah 6:1-19 | Strength in Wisdom

Key Verse: So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God. (Nehemiah 6:15-16, ESV)

Objectives: Through your time exploring this passage, your small group members will:

Discuss the tactics that people employ to distract or derail God's plans and God's people.

Identify the wisdom that God provides to address those who endeavor to oppose God.

Determine where you need God's wisdom to strengthen you. Ask Him to grace you with His Spirit of wisdom for the circumstances where God intends to use you for His purpose.

Conversation Starter: Would you Rather....

Would you rather have unmatched strength or unparalleled wisdom? Why? What is the benefit of having each? What is the vulnerability of having each?

Smoke and Mirrors (Nehemiah 6:1-9)

How do you describe the attempt of Nehemiah's enemies by the actions described in verses 1-4?

We see Nehemiah's response in verse 3. What stands out to you in how he answers the opponents' four requests?

How does Sanballat's tactic shift in verse 5-7?

What stands out to you in Nehemiah's response in verses 8-9?

Attempted Betrayal (Nehemiah 6:10-14)

While Sanballat could not harm Nehemiah from the outside, new efforts were undertaken from within. What evidence do you observe that Nehemiah was able to "see through" Shemaiah's deceptive tactics?

How is Nehemiah's response an illustration of wisdom?

What then, is the relationship to knowing God's word and facing life's circumstances today? Where is the "crucible" for believers today in rightly applying God's word to our circumstances?

Results amidst Opposition (Nehemiah 6:15-19)

What is significant to you in the recitation of what was accomplished (verses 15-16)?

Where in your life have you seen opponents "retreat" as God has worked through you as you have applied his word to your crisis?

The account of Tobiah in verses 17-19 details another element of opposition that occurred throughout the rebuilding effort. Tobiah was an "insider" who opposed the work. These details show an effort of Nehemiah's enemies to cause an internal rift among the Jewish people. It speaks of family loyalties and divisions. Wisdom is the right use of the information in the right way at the right time. Why do you think that family, relationships, and loyalties tend to find themselves at the center of crises where wisdom is needed?

What are some principles you can put into effect when dealing with the ongoing relational challenges requiring God's wisdom.

Jesus in Focus

Where in this chapter do you see Jesus: Christ-like practices, examples, principles?

What are some other Scriptures that come to mind or are relevant to this chapter's themes, teachings, or emphases?

What is one "take-away" for you from this chapter?