

Key Passages: Nehemiah 4:1-6, Ephesians 6:11-12

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Nehemiah was burdened for his people and his home → He prayed and God gave him a mission
- **Living a life on mission guarantees we will face spiritual opposition**
- We see this in Nehemiah's story and Ephesians 6:11-12 applies
- God is a God on a mission
  - To renew and restore all that has been damaged by sin
  - The enemy wants to stop the plans of God with his schemes and strategies
- Sometimes we act like everything is normal and say:
  - "This is just the way it is"
  - But we need to seek to understand what is going on at a spiritual level
- **The kingdom of darkness is strategically organized against God and his people**
- Sanballat (v2) attacks the Jews, much like our enemy attacks us
  - By questioning identity ("Who do you think you are?" "What do you think you're doing?")
  - The enemy tries to make us weary
- Nehemiah knows the power of prayer so he Prays
  - ...and Prays again and again
  - There are multiple attacks of the enemy
- We have to be "on mission" BUT also PREPARED for the enemy
  - Nehemiah organizes families and clans to specific places and portions of the wall
  - We have to have each other's back
  - Some to WATCH and some to WORK
  - Our "family" has a mission and purpose to take territory for God's kingdom
- Picture - Mirror - Window (approach to dissecting God's word)
  - Picture = What does this reveal about God?
    - God of covenant (like marriage when 2 become 1)
    - We have an identity as His children
    - The enemy hates covenant and tries to break up ours with God (like he tries to destroy marriages)
    - God is the King → we have a measure of power, authority & responsibility because we are his
  - Mirror = What does this say about me?

- Am I Discerning? There are realities beyond what we can see
- Am I resting in my identity? Am I representing the King well as a part of his Kingdom
- Window = How does this change my point of reference? The way I live my life?

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. When was a time or a season when you faced/are facing spiritual opposition?
2. What has God taught you about himself as a result of the battle? What has he taught you about yourself?
3. What are some the enemies schemes that you have learned to identify and discern?
4. How are you doing at resting/living in your identity as a child of God?
5. How have you experienced the power of God in the midst of the attacks of the enemy?
6. How should your identity as a child of God and a representative of the King inform the way you pray, think, work and live?
7. What mission has God given you? What does it look like for you to be prepared for the attacks of the enemy in that mission?
8. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan - Mon: Matthew 3 Tues: Matthew 4 Wed: Matthew 5 Thurs: Matthew 6 Fri: Matthew 7**

**\*\*5 Minutes Reading/5 Minutes Writing/5 Minutes Praying**

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