

The Wall
Taking Care of Business
Sunday, May 25, 2008

Just when it looks like there is a light at the end of the tunnel, the journey continues. Nehemiah and his faithful crew of “City builders” have completed the wall of Jerusalem. Strike up the band, have a party, the job is done! But is it? The completion of the wall in chapter 6 of the book of Nehemiah gets a one line “ho-hum” mention. Strange, or is it? Perhaps, Nehemiah downplayed it so much because he knew that the job that God gave him wasn’t finished yet. He goes from securing the perimeter of the city of God to now focus on the infrastructure, building into the lives of the people. Maybe the job God gave Nehemiah to do really wasn’t just about the reconstruction of walls and buildings but perhaps it was more about rebuilding and restoring his people? Join us for “Taking Care of Business”, the eighth message in our series, “The Wall”.

Discussion Questions
Nehemiah 6:15 - 7:73

Reread the passage of scripture with your small group.

1. Discuss with your group the ways that you celebrate accomplishments in your life. As a family, do you intentionally make time to celebrate when someone completes something? If you are a single person, do you invite others into celebrating your joyous times? Why is this important? What stops us from celebrating with family and friends?
2. The enemies of Nehemiah were awed by the work of God in his life and in helping him complete the building of the wall. Are you awed by the work of God all around you? Share with your group something that has awed you this week. Are you in awe of what God has done in your life? Describe this with your group.
3. Do you have a constant “thorn in your side”? Discuss with your group your “Tobiah”, that someone or something that routinely takes your attention away from the things that should matter most?
4. In your group, discuss why praise and worship of God through music and singing were important themes in the bible. (eg. Psalm 150) Discuss how praise and worship through music affects you in the Sunday morning service environment today.
5. Nehemiah appointed some of the people to be “gatekeepers” of their own neighbourhoods in the rebuilt city of Jerusalem. What is the role that Jesus calls us to in our neighbourhoods today? Describe what you see as the greatest needs in the neighbourhood in which you live. How can you be “salt and light” (Matthew 5:13-15) in your community?

Pray for one another as you seek to let God work in your life through this discussion of Nehemiah 6:15-7:73.