

## **Group Discussion Guide | Nehemiah | Pastor Jordan Biel**

1. What were some of the fears Nehemiah likely had to overcome when God put the “promise” the vision of a restored wall around Jerusalem, in his heart?
2. Is it possible God can use a terrible situation to redeem people? Discuss openly something that was unfair that you experienced and discuss the possibility of God using it for His glory and the redemption of others.
3. What gave Nehemiah the courage to approach the King? Does God give us courage when we approach Him in prayer?
4. How do you think Nehemiah felt when Sanballat and Tobiah were openly accusing him of subverting the King’s authority? How do you think he ignored such vivid and public criticism?
5. When have you faced criticism for trying to step out in faith and do something for God, and what did you do in response?
6. Have you ever experienced a time when you felt isolated or intimidated? Like it was just you and God...?
7. Someone read James 4:13–17, then someone else read James 5:7–11.

<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—<sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

<sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

8. Someone else read Romans 8:12–29.

9. What do these passages tell us about God’s will and God’s goodness?

10. How can we overcome the mental battle that Satan brings to us—the temptations to quit, the beliefs that we aren’t good enough to make it, that we aren’t smart enough or “spiritual enough” to lead...?

How do we overcome these accusations Satan throws at our minds? How does grace play into these lies of shame? How does Jesus' work on the cross break these lies?