

Nehemiah 3 – Opposition to a Big Job
Study/Discussion Guide

- 1) Chapter 3 seems long and merely describes the process of the work being done. Admittedly seems boring. But it is important because it shows just how big of a job this was. Rebuilding the walls took a lot of people, time, and resources. Why is it important to understand the task at hand? Read Luke 14:25-35. Why is it important to count the cost when it comes to following Jesus? What happens when we don't?
- 2) Why do you think there was so much opposition to the Jews rebuilding Jerusalem? How does that relate to our own spiritual growth and some of the warfare that we see?
- 3) Nehemiah 3:4 – What is Tobiah's mistake in his reasoning? What is he forgetting? Why is this important in our lives (remember who sees the whole picture)?
- 4) What is the first thing that Nehemiah does in the face of opposition? Why is this important?
- 5) Why is it important that Nehemiah did not just stop with prayer? Is continuing to work a sign of a lack of trust or faith in God? Why or why not?
- 6) Nehemiah prayed for the destruction of his enemies. Contrast that with Jesus' prayer in Luke 23:34 and Stephen's prayer in Acts 7:60. What if anything has changed in how we should pray for those who oppose us? Also read Matthew 5:38-48.

7) How can staying in a “protection only” mode keep a person from growing deeper into their faith? What would happen if Nehemiah had just left his men guarding the walls?

8) How to deal with discouragement and opposition (from Charles Swindoll). Consider these points and read the scripture. Think about a discouraging issue you are dealing with or something in your life where you are feeling opposition. Try to apply these principals to this situation and see what the results are.

a) Unify your efforts towards a goal – Nehemiah 4:13

b) Direct your attention to the Lord – Nehemiah 4:14, Isaiah 26:3-4, Philippians 4:6-7

c) Maintain a balance between faith and action – Nehemiah 4:14-17

d) Determine a rallying point – Nehemiah 4:19-20, 1 Kings 19:4, 10

e) Develop a “serve-one-another” mentality – Nehemiah 4:21-23