

P A T I E N T E N D U R A N C E

Hand me another brick.

H

(2) "You Have a Role"

HIGHLIGHT: Nehemiah 3 and 4:1-3 NLT

Below are excerpts from the overall passage for use with the APPLICATION and RESPOND. It will be beneficial for the group to read the whole passage to understand the entire context.

Nehemiah 3 (NLT)

vv. 1-32

1 Then Eliashib the high priest and the other priests started to rebuild at the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set up its doors, building the wall as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and the Tower of Hananel. **2** People from the town of Jericho worked next to them, and beyond them was Zaccur son of Imri.

3 The Fish Gate was built by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid the beams, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. **4** Meremoth son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz repaired the next section of wall. Beside him were Meshullam son of Berekiah and grandson of Meshezabel, and then Zadok son of Baana. **5** Next were the people from Tekoa, though their leaders refused to work with the construction supervisors.

6 The Old City Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid the beams, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. **7** Next to them were Melatiah from Gibeon, Jadon from Meronoth, people from Gibeon, and people from Mizpah, the headquarters of the governor of the province west of the Euphrates River. **8** Next was Uzziel son of Harhaiah, a goldsmith by trade, who also worked on the wall. Beyond him was Hananiah, a manufacturer of perfumes. They left out a section of Jerusalem as they built the Broad Wall.

9 Rephaiah son of Hur, the leader of half the district of Jerusalem, was next to them on the wall. **10** Next Jedaiah son of Harumaph repaired the wall across from his own house, and next to him was Hattush son of Hashabneiah. **11** Then came Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-moab, who repaired another section of the wall and the Tower of the Ovens. **12** Shallum son of Hallohesh and his daughters repaired the next section. He was the leader of the other half of the district of Jerusalem.

13 The Valley Gate was repaired by the people from Zanoah, led by Hanun. They set up its doors and installed its bolts and bars. They also repaired the 1,500 feet of wall to the Dung Gate.

14 The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Recab, the leader of the Beth-hakkerem district. He rebuilt it, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars.

15 The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallum son of Col-hozeah, the leader of the Mizpah district. He rebuilt it, roofed it, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. Then he repaired the wall of the pool of Siloam near the king's garden, and he rebuilt the wall as far as the stairs that descend from the City of David. **16** Next

to him was Nehemiah son of Azbuk, the leader of half the district of Beth-zur. He rebuilt the wall from a place across from the tombs of David's family as far as the water reservoir and the House of the Warriors.

17 Next to him, repairs were made by a group of Levites working under the supervision of Rehum son of Bani. Then came Hashabiah, the leader of half the district of Keilah, who supervised the building of the wall on behalf of his own district. **18** Next down the line were his countrymen led by Binnui son of Henadad, the leader of the other half of the district of Keilah.

19 Next to them, Ezer son of Jeshua, the leader of Mizpah, repaired another section of wall across from the ascent to the armory near the angle in the wall. **20** Next to him was Baruch son of Zabbai, who zealously repaired an additional section from the angle to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest. **21** Meremoth son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz rebuilt another section of the wall extending from the door of Eliashib's house to the end of the house.

22 The next repairs were made by the priests from the surrounding region. **23** After them, Benjamin and Hasshub repaired the section across from their house, and Azariah son of Maaseiah and grandson of Ananiah repaired the section across from his house. **24** Next was Binnui son of Henadad, who rebuilt another section of the wall from Azariah's house to the angle and the corner. **25** Palal son of Uzai carried on the work from a point opposite the angle and the tower that projects up from the king's upper house beside the court of the guard. Next to him were Pedaiah son of Parosh, **26** with the Temple servants living on the hill of Ophel, who repaired the wall as far as a point across from the Water Gate to the east and the projecting tower. **27** Then came the people of Tekoa, who repaired another section across from the great projecting tower and over to the wall of Ophel.

28 Above the Horse Gate, the priests repaired the wall. Each one repaired the section immediately across from his own house. **29** Next Zadok son of Immer also rebuilt the wall across from his own house, and beyond him was Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, the gatekeeper of the East Gate. **30** Next Hananiah son of Shelemiah and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section, while Meshullam son of Berekiah rebuilt the wall across from where he lived. **31** Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the wall as far as the housing for the Temple servants and merchants, across from the Inspection Gate. Then he continued as far as the upper room at the corner. **32** The other goldsmiths and merchants repaired the wall from that corner to the Sheep Gate.

Nehemiah 4 (NLT)

vv. 1-3

1 Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, **2** saying in front of his friends and the Samaritan army officers, "What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they're doing? Do they think they can build the wall in a single day by just offering a few sacrifices? Do they actually think they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap—and charred ones at that?"

3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, "That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!"

EXPLAIN

E

The purpose of this section is to deepen everyone's understanding of the Word.

Chapter two closes with a positive response to Nehemiah's challenge that the disgrace of Jerusalem must be ended: they began the good work of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem in spite of rising opposition from the enemies of God's people (1:17-19).

Nehemiah 3:1-32 Nehemiah is showing how extensive the excitement of rebuilding the walls—a page out of his journal demonstrating the faithfulness of God to his prayers. *This is how God helped us succeed (1:20)*. The workers included the High Priest and other priests (vv.1 and 22), goldsmiths, manufacturers of perfumes, and merchants (vv.8, 31-32), men and women (v.12), the common man (probably most of the workers) and political leaders (vv.12, 14, 16-19). The workers were from not only Jerusalem but also the surrounding area of Judah. Some excelled in their work (v.20), most remained faithful to their tasks, and some made the project more difficult (v.5).

But God, in His faithfulness to the work He had put in Nehemiah's heart, brought together all kinds of people with all kinds of talent (much of which had nothing to do with construction) to complete a task that would bring Him glory (1:17-18). There was a place for anyone and everyone who had a heart for Jerusalem and God and His glory.

Everyone of us has a role to play in God's great scheme of things (see *Ephesians 4:11-12* and *Matthew 28:18-20*). Will we be faithful, will we excel, or will we throw sand into the machinery of what God is wanting to do?

Nehemiah 4:1-3 We begin to see the hostility and bitterness of Israel's neighbors when they see Nehemiah's rebuilding the fortifications of the city. They were outraged and disgusted at the prospect of Jerusalem's restoration. **Sanballat's mockery of the Jews** was only beginning. In later chapters we will see an escalation of **Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem's** hostility—even to the point of physical harm. God and His people will always have enemies—either personal, political, or spiritual. **Poor, feeble Jews**—an attempt to humiliate and discourage them. Then came an attack on their faith and on God—**do they think they can build a wall...by just offering a few sacrifices?** Then two more attacks on how inferior these Jews are—no one can **make something from a rubbish heap, stones that are cracked by fire. That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it.** But God laughs at their foolishness (see *Psalms 2:1-6*). He is sovereign and His plans will prevail. Let us not be discouraged by the enemies' insults. When God has a project to be carried out, He will get it done (2:20). What a joy to be on the winning side. What a thrill to be able to glorify God through our obedience.

APPLY

A

Be comfortable with some silence as people think back to the sermon or reread the text. Answer honestly. You don't have to answer every question.

1. What stuck out to you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text?
2. In chapter 3, we see Nehemiah's wisdom in forming 8 different groups to work on the wall. He also intentionally stations people to work on the wall near their homes. In what ways do you see the church executing plans in a strategic way? How could the church do better to plan ways to serve others?
3. We also see in chapter 3 how everyone came together for the common good of the community and the glory of God. In this time of covid-19, how have you seen people from all walks of life band together to serve one another and the community?
4. There were people outside of the Jewish community mocking and criticizing the work of the people. What criticisms have you heard against believers in this difficult season the world is going through? What can we be confident about in the Lord and what he is doing through the church?

R**RESPOND**

The purpose of this section is to take action with the truths you're learning. Answer honestly. Find someone who will hold you accountable to living out your response to Scripture.

1. Where can your life group come together to better the community God has called you to live in?

Name a specific way you can accomplish this during this season of a pandemic.

2. We know God is sovereign, in control of everything. His plans were not stopped by mockers or those who wanted them stopped. What he wants to accomplish he will. Our job is to trust this to be true. How have you trusted in God's sovereignty during the pandemic, election, or some other trial recently in your life?

What area(s) of your life do you need to have faith that God is sovereign? Or, how can you be patient and trust in his plan more? (Give specific details.)