

Make A Difference
Nehemiah - Part 3
November 22-23, 2020
Pastor Steve Tanner

*"They replied at once, 'Yes, let's rebuild the wall!' So they began the good work."
Nehemiah 2:18b (p.372)*

- Follow God's Plan, Even When It's Hard.

1. To make a difference we need to work together. (Nehemiah 3)

Principles from Nehemiah 3

- Everyone had a role to fill.
- Not everyone had the same role.
- Many served outside their comfort zone.
- They had a shared vision.

*"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other."
Romans 12:4-5 (p.866)*

*"The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."
Luke 10:2 (p.792)*

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2. Making a difference invites opposition. (Nehemiah 4-5-6)

*"Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews."
Nehemiah 4:1 (p.372)*

*"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."
1 Peter 5:8 (p.937)*

*"But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves."
Nehemiah 4:9 (p.372)*

Principles from Nehemiah 4-5-6.

- The enemy always opposes God's plan.
- Respond with prayer and stand strong together.

*"We belong to the same family as those who are wealthy, and our children are just like theirs. Yet we must sell our children into slavery just to get enough money to live."
Nehemiah 5:5a (p.374)*

*"After thinking it over, I spoke out against these nobles and officials. I told them, 'You are hurting your own relatives by charging interest when they borrow money!' Then I called a public meeting to deal with the problem."
Nehemiah 5:7 (p.374)*

- **Opposition sometimes comes from within.**
 - *Deal with it honestly.*

“So on October 2 the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun.”
Nehemiah 6:15 (p.375)

“And Tobiah kept sending threatening letters to intimidate me.”
Nehemiah 6:19b (p.375)

- **Opposition never stops entirely.**
 - *Be aware and stay close to God.*

Next Step: ____ I will make a difference (or, continue to make a difference) by serving on a Team at Alive Church.



Discussion/Groups Guide from the Weekend Talk
From the Weekend Talk of November 21-22, 2020
Nehemiah - Part 3: Make A Difference

Life Groups use these questions to go deeper into what we talked about this weekend. Dig into them so you will be ready for the discussion at your Life Group. If you are not in a Group, find out more at alivechurch.com/groups.

You can also use this guide to discuss the Weekend Talk with your family or friends.

Conversation Starters

- What is the best team you have ever been on (sports-related or not)?
- What makes a team great?
- Talk about a time when you did something that was outside of your “comfort zone”?

Quick Review

- Looking back at your Talk Notes, was there anything you heard in the service that stood out or maybe even confused you?

Discussion Starters from the Weekend Talk

Refer to the Talk Notes and related Bible verses from this Weekend’s Talk.

The One Thing from the weekend Talk that Pastor Steve wants us to remember is:

“Follow God’s Plan, Even When It’s Hard.”

- When do you find it most difficult to follow God’s plan?

Steve taught us about a couple of undeniable truths that come from following God’s plan, especially as it impacts making a difference in our lives:

1. To make a difference we need to work together. (Nehemiah 3 (p.372*))

- Browse Chapter 3 and look for the following principles found there. When have you experienced one or more of these principles in your life?
 - **Everyone had a role to fill.**
 - **Not everyone had the same role.**
 - **Many served outside their comfort zone.**
 - **They had a shared vision.**
- Read Romans 12:4-5 (p.866) and Luke 10:2 (p.792).
 - What is your role in the church?
 - You can see a couple of lists of ongoing and specific serving opportunities in our church right here: www.alivechurch.com/serve.
 - In our very odd year of 2020, what are some creative ways people can serve?

2. Making a difference invites opposition. (Nehemiah chapters 4, 5, and 6)

- (Read Nehemiah 4:1-9, 21-23 (p.373*) and Nehemiah 5:1-7 (p.374*) and Nehemiah 6:15, 19 (p.375*), as well as 1 Peter 5:8 (p.937*))
- Talk about the following principles and actions found in these passages from Nehemiah. Have you experienced any of them? How did you do?
 - **The enemy always opposes God's plan.**
 - *Respond with prayer and stand strong together.*
 - **Opposition sometimes comes from within.**
 - *Deal with it honestly.*
 - **Opposition never stops entirely.**
 - *Be aware and stay close to God.*

Digging Deeper

There's so much going on in the first 6 chapters of Nehemiah that it could be an interesting exercise to simply go back and touch on some of the things we did NOT get to in our three Weekend Talks in this fascinating book. Jeff will wrap up the series this coming weekend (November 28-29) with the praises and thanksgiving that went on after the wall was done.

So here are a few passages and a few principles that we haven't have time to touch on:

- Chapter 1
 - How Nehemiah prayed (1:5-11)
 - What elements were contained in his prayer?
 - What principles can we learn from his prayer?
- Chapter 2
 - Nehemiah's stealth reconnaissance mission. (2:11-17)
 - Why do the survey at night without telling anyone?
- Chapter 3
 - Look for more interesting tidbits from the people listed.
 - Look up what the various gates were used for.
- Chapter 4
 - Not only does this chapter get into the opposition they faced, but other challenges, as well. What are some of them?

- Hint: see verse 10 for one example.
 - Talk about the various ways Nehemiah describes the actions they took to protect themselves.
- Chapter 5
 - Read more about how Nehemiah handled the internal strife described (Nehemiah 5:1-13).
 - Look who else worked on the wall (verse 16).
- Chapter 6
 - The ones who had opposed Nehemiah all along changed their tactics a bit in this chapter. How so?

Next Step

My Next Step: ___ I will make a difference (or, continue to make a difference) by serving on a Team at Alive Church.

What's Ahead

- **This week we continue our Talk Series, "Nehemiah,"** as we explore the extraordinary things God did through a man who was inspired by God through a burden that led him to a vision for a massive restoration project.
- **Make a Difference** by serving at Alive Church. www.alivechurch.com/serve.
- **Are you new to Alive Church?** Then come to Discover Alive on Sunday, December 6, at 12:30pm. We'll feed you lunch, provide free childcare, and help you learn more about who we are, where we are going, and how you can be a part of what God is doing at Alive Church! Use your Connection Card to let us know you want to come. Or send an email to office@alivechurch.com and tell us there.

* The Life Transformation Bible is the New Living Translation of the Bible, including many useful tools to help you better understand God's Word, including our own Alive Church Life Transformation Discipleship Plan. They are available FREE. Let us know if you'd like to have one.