



RENOVATE: BUILDING A LIFE WITH GOD

“When Others Don’t Like Your Plans”

Life Group Study

Week of October 3rd, 2021

Opening Prayer for Group Meeting

Creator God,

We come together, O Holy One, to encounter you in a story of renovation. As spiritual houses, we know we are in need of rebuilding our broken places so we can respond to your call.

Guide us as we seek to open ourselves more fully to you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the foundation of all life, we pray.

Amen.

Connect

Welcome everyone and check in.

Opening

Show Video

Video Discussion



Recap of Nehemiah

Dwelling in the Word

Read Nehemiah 4:1-20

pause for reflection

Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at [Sanballat’s] side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”

Nehemiah 4:13

Sabotage

Sanballat and Tobiah do not want to see the city rebuilt.

Do you have a Sanballat in your life? Someone/something that wants to stifle our spiritual growth? Sanballat wants to make it look like the job is impossible; in other words, create doubt. And Sanballat wants to rally opposition against what you are trying to do. Just like he did to Nehemiah. The spirit of Sanballat’s goal is to discourage you—to get you to quit what God has called you to do. The goal is to tear down—not build up—the wall God is calling you to build. Sanballat can take the form of discouragement, fatigue and fear. These are a few of the enemies of restoration and rebuilding.

Where do you see this in your life?

In the life of the church?



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How to Use This Study Guide to lead a Group Discussion

Read through all the questions and choose the ones most relevant to your group. We include more than enough ideas for the times suggested. Please do not feel the need to “cover every question.” It works better to focus your time on the items that best fit your group’s needs.



Facing The Enemy

Nehemiah finished the wall not by removing the fear of attack and reprisal but by helping the people face their fears, turning them towards God who was their defender and shield. Like Nehemiah, we need to act with God, and for God, even though it means strenuous effort and opposition. We need to trust God, do our day’s work faithfully, and leave the future and the results to Him.

How do you face the fears and doubts that are inevitably sown?

Building and Guarding

In the face of insults, Nehemiah reminds the people to take heart and celebrate all the accomplishments God has done. And so, they continue to be renewed and to rebuild.

However, Sanballat and the armies turn up the heat threatening to attack them physically. Nehemiah has half the people build while the other half keep watch.

What does it mean for you to be a builder of the kingdom of God AND to watch out for others?

What does it mean to you knowing others are watching out for you?

Reframing the Situation

“Don’t be afraid of them.

Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families,...” Nehemiah 4:14b

In the face of our struggles and sabotage to be builders in God’s kingdom, what does Nehemiah teach us?

Closing Prayer

Redeeming God, we give thanks that you are the God of rescue. We trust that you are the God of truth that dispels all the lies we are told and often believe. Encourage us by your Spirit to know that whatever troubles we face, you are great and mighty; and that the work you entrust to us is sacred. Keep our eyes fixed on our true purpose of serving you and blessing the world you so love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.