

LG | LeaderGuide

[Nehemiah 4]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

Prepare our minds to receive God's word.

- How was everyone's week? [Does everyone know each other? Any introductions needed?]
- Anything new in your lives'? Are there any burdens we need to pray for or victories we can celebrate together?
- When reflecting on the message this past Sunday, what most resonated with you?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text. If you do not have a Bible, your leader can provide one.

1. Read our primary text. Someone give a "recap" or summary of how we arrived in chapter 4.
2. Nehemiah and the workers find themselves being mocked by Sanballat and Tobiah. Is this the first occurrence of mockery? How does Nehemiah respond differently this time?

This is not the first occurrence of being mocked (See 2:20). Nehemiah first response was directed to Sanballat and Tobiah, his response in chapter 4 was directly to God.

3. In your own words, what is Nehemiah's request to God?

Nehemiah is asking God to not overlook their guilt but to give them what God had already done to Israel; send them into exile, so that God would again be honored.

4. How is the faith of the people who are building? What evidence do you find in chapter 4 that the people's faith is being challenged?

Their faith is being challenged from both within and outside the walls from their enemies. There is faithless talk within (v.10), enemy talk without (v.11), and faithless talk from round about (v.12).

5. Nehemiah ramps up his leadership in v.13. What essentially is his gameplan and what is the crucial message that he delivers to all of them?

He reinforces the low or weak points of the wall with armed guards and he reminds them that above all, "Do not be afraid of them, Remember the Lord...fight for your family."

6. If Nehemiah and the people were to be attacked, what was supposed to happen? Where would Nehemiah be in all of this action?

If they were attacked, the trumpeter, who was standing next to Nehemiah at all times, would sound the trumpet and the people would rally to that area to defend the city. Nehemiah was not using the people for his gain, but rather he would be on the front lines fighting for something greater than himself, the glory of God.

7. What was the extent of the people's commitment to defend the wall?

Day and night they took shifts, armed and ready, as they kept watch. Nehemiah and his "brothers" remained dressed all hours of the night to be prepared for enemy engagement.

8. How would you describe Nehemiah to someone else? Does your walk with the Lord display any leadership qualities that Nehemiah displayed in the face of adversity? What is your tendency?

When the heat is on, do you remind yourself to "not be afraid" and to "remember the Lord?" Nehemiah did not cultivate this courage overnight, he pursued the Lord daily and the Lord gave him the strength and boldness to stand firm because he knew the Lord was on his side.

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. What does tonight's conversation lead you to pray for? What burdens have been presented in conversation?