

Life Group Homework

For the week of February 25, 2018

MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) In what ways did you seek to encourage people this week, or how were you encouraged?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

Over the past several weeks we have discussed the work Nehemiah did rebuilding the wall. We have unpacked some specific things he did very well. This week we will take a closer look at how he guarded the work and what he did to protect it.

Nehemiah 4:13-14 (NLT)

¹³ So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows.

¹⁴ Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!"

- 4) Why would Nehemiah have people stand guard by their families, and why would he have them work on the wall outside their homes?
- 5) What is the significance of Nehemiah setting guards at the lowest part of the wall?
- 6) What are the most vulnerable areas in your life that the enemy uses to attack you?

TAKING IT HOME

Nehemiah was very strategic about guarding the work God had given him. Now let's take a look at tools the New Testament gives us to guard the work God has given us.

Ephesians 6:12-17 (NLT)

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness.

¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- 7) It can be easy in the struggles of life to forget who our enemy is. From the passage above: where is our struggle, and who is it really against?
- 8) According to the passage, what is the gear we are given to fight this battle with?
- 9) Out of all the pieces of armor, is there any we can do without, and why or why not?
- 10) What is the purpose of the armor of God for the believer?
- 11) In what ways do you need to employ the armor of God into your life?
- 12) How can a person become more acquainted with the thing each piece of armor represents?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read all of Ephesians 6 and pray through the following thoughts.

- 13) God, where do I need to add protection in my life?
- 14) God, who can I encourage today?
- 15) God, help me to understand better how to stand firm against the devil.
- 16) God, reveal the lies in my life I have believed and need to substitute for Your truth.

FAMILY RESOURCES

Read Ephesians 6:12-17 with your kids and answer the following questions as a family:

- 17) When we are struggling or are feeling attacked, who is our enemy? Who are we really fighting against? (Be sure to point your children back to verse 12. If they are young, you may want to explain who the devil is, while being careful not to scare them. A simple explanation like this should suffice: the enemy (devil) is a fallen angel who rebelled against God and now tries to deceive people into disobeying God. Remember to assure them that when we are in Christ we are safe and do not need to fear the enemy. Rather, we should trust that God loves us and will protect us. Our job is to trust God and stand firm against the devil's attacks by using the armor of God.)
- 18) Share a recent situation where you felt attacked. How did you respond?

- 19) What parts of the armor of God could you have used in that situation? How do you think that the situation would have been different?
- 20) Pick one piece of the armor of God and commit to practicing it this week. Share it with your family.



Guarding The Work

Nehemiah 6:13-14

God has a vision for you and He has appointed you to a great work!

So here is the question: "What are you doing to guard this great work"?

¹⁰ *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy... John 10:10a (NLT)*

- Walls and gates are designed to keep BAD things out and GOOD things in.
- Walls and gates can allow bad things IN and good things OUT. (If left unguarded, unprotected, or unmaintained)

Walls will BREAK DOWN,
Gates are sometimes LEFT OPEN.

¹³⁻¹⁴ *So I stationed armed guards at the most vulnerable places of the wall and assigned people by families with their swords, lances, and bows. After looking things over I stood up and spoke to the nobles, officials, and everyone else: "Don't be afraid of them. Put your minds on the Master, great and awesome, and then fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes." Nehemiah 4:13-14 (MSG)*

We have to IDENTIFY our vulnerable areas.

¹³⁻¹⁴ *So I stationed armed guards at the most vulnerable places of the wall.*

- What are the most vulnerable places in your life?

We have to have a PLAN and then INITIATE the plan.

"...assigned people by families with their swords, lances, and bows... Put your minds on the Master."

- Planning will require us to be INTENTIONAL. "Assigned people.."
- It will require us to put God FIRST. "Put your minds on the Master."

Everyone was EQUIPPED—we need to be equipped and equip others.

Ephesians 6:16-17 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁶ *In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.^[a]¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

Everyone PARTICIPATED – This is a team effort. "WE are about a great work."

"Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!"