



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

"How to Finish Well: Sword and Trowel" *Nehemiah 4*

Record your insights & observations from this week's sermon..

SERMON NOTES

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) In the Book of Nehemiah, the opposition to the rebuilding was attempting to stop the project. What type of verbal criticism from others is most likely to stop you from completing your goal? (For example claims of incompetence, assaults on your character, questions of your authority, etc.)
- 2) Nehemiah quickly defaults to prayer when faced with discouragement. How often do you pray when you are being verbally attacked and what prevents you from always turning to prayer?
- 3) When getting discouraged, the people were focusing on the rubble around them and the difficulty of the task. In our culture, we can become focused on the rubble and disarray around us instead of focusing on the Kingdom of God. What are some of the things that cause you to focus on the rubble instead of God in your daily life?
- 4) The image of the workers with swords strapped to their sides while working with their hands to rebuild creates the image of both protecting and building----which are you more likely to carry? Identify some areas in your life where you need to protect - (the sword). Identify some areas in your life where you need to build or rebuild - (the trowel).

FOR YOUR FAMILY

- 1) Memorize *Nehemiah 4:20* – *In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. OUR GOD WILL FIGHT FOR US.*
- 2) What does it mean in our time “when you hear the sound of the trumpet”?
- 3) Who do we rally with? Talk about projects that have gone unfinished. Is it external pressure, (negative comments from others) or internal pressure (I am tired, I don’t possess the knowledge, I don’t want to ask for help) that is preventing the completion?
- 4) How can we build the reputation of a family who finishes well? Some people are natural finishers and others are natural starters----which are you?