



“The Fight”

Nehemiah 4:1-15

Our study of Nehemiah has already proven to be an illustration of the gospel. Like the ruined walls of Jerusalem, our world (and our hearts!) are broken places. Like Nehemiah – who left his place of glory in the capital city of Persia to “promote the welfare of the Israelites” (2:10) – Jesus Christ left heaven to rescue us from our sin and misery. This week’s reading resonates with every Christian who has felt the attacks of the world, the flesh, and the devil as he or she joins Jesus in his work of rebuilding lives.

In his book, *Age of Opportunity*, author Paul David Tripp writes: “Spiritual warfare makes us think of demon possession, horrific demonstrations of satanic control, and dramatic exorcisms. But Scripture presents spiritual warfare not as the violent, bizarre end of the Christian life, but as what the Christian life *is!*”¹

May this week’s study further equip you for the fight of your life.

¹ Paul David Tripp, *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens*. P&R Publishing, 1997, pg. 116. Emphasis his.



KNOWING GOD

Read **Nehemiah 4**. Nehemiah came to Jerusalem from his home in Susa to lead the rebuilding of the city’s walls. In the previous chapter, Nehemiah organized everyone into teams and got the work going. Very quickly, however, they found that it wasn’t going to be a cake walk. Enemies from surrounding nations commenced a program of psychological warfare to discourage the workers and impede the rebuilding of the wall. How does this story serve as a metaphor for the Christian life?

Our *Westminster Shorter Catechism* (Question 26) says that Jesus Christ serves as our King “in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.” How do you see Nehemiah as a type (or resemblance) of Christ our King in this chapter?

If Christ is our King, why does he allow the world, the flesh, and the devil to wreak such havoc in our lives?



GROWING TOGETHER

What are the “exposed places” (vs. 13) in your life? That is, where are you most vulnerable to spiritual attack?

How can Nehemiah's defensive strategy help you be more diligent and successful in your own spiritual battle?



SERVING OTHERS

Nehemiah knew the people needed to depend on one another for defense. So he directed half of them to stand guard while the other half rebuilt the wall (vs. 16). Is there someone who needs you to defend him or her right now? What will it look like for you to “fight for” that person (vs. 14)?



IN YOUR FAMILY...

(a) *Something to talk about:* What forces threaten to discourage, divide, or even destroy your family? (Parents, your children may not be aware of how things like TV, the internet, community sports programs, and other people can be sources of bad influence. Be bold enough to identify these things and set limits.)

(b) *Something to do:* Read **Ephesians 6:10-18**. This passage describes the Christian soldier fully equipped for battle. Draw a picture of this soldier as you imagine him or her, and include the pieces of armor listed in this passage. Talk about what each piece means for your daily life.