

Nehemiah: Discernment Under Pressure

Nehemiah 6

MAIN IDEAS

1. Nehemiah is not tempted by distraction.
2. Nehemiah does not fall prey to gossip.
3. Nehemiah does not give in to fear.
4. Despite opposition, the wall is finished.

Why did the opposition intensify in verses 1-4? How did Nehemiah respond? How many times did they attempt to distract him?

How did Nehemiah use discernment when confronted with gossip in verses 5-9? How were these accusations different? Why did his enemies send him an open letter?

How did Nehemiah avoid succumbing to fear in verses 10-14? What can we learn about his character? Consider 2 Timothy 1:7, Numbers 18:7.

In verse 16, who realized that the wall was completed due to help from God? What was the result of this?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Vague accusations can easily give the wrong impression. When confronted with gossip, how might you use discernment to respond?

How can we discern when believers around us give us good advice? How can we discern bad advice?

How do you use discernment to resist succumbing to fear?

Do you know what God wants you to do? How do you use discernment to focus?

Pray:

- For wisdom and discernment in the face of gossip.
- To not let the words of others discourage us when doing God's work (Proverbs 29:25).
- That we, as a church, turn to God for strength and comfort in the face of adversity and opposition (Psalm 50:15).

GROUP RESPONSE

How can we at DEC serve God faithfully to accomplish great things?

How can we, as a church, emulate Nehemiah's character when faced with gossip or fear?

REPRODUCE

Is God calling you to accomplish great things? Are you focused or distracted from serving God faithfully? Share with a brother or a sister.

KEY VERSES

- Nehemiah 6

ADDITIONAL VERSES

- Psalm 50:15
- Proverbs 29:25
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- Numbers 18:7