

# Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Standing Strong

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: Perseverance Required

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Memory Verse: Nehemiah 9:10 NIV

You sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his officials and all the people of his land, for you knew how arrogantly the Egyptians treated them. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day.

*The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word to lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.*

**Big Idea:** Continue to persevere in the work of God despite discouragement and opposition.

## Read Nehemiah 3

1. Some of the workers rebuilding the wall were priests, merchants, goldsmiths, and even perfumeists. Where else in Scripture have you seen God use unlikely people to accomplish His will? When has God used you (or others you know) in ways you did not expect?
2. The only people in this chapter mentioned as not joining in the work are the nobles of Tekoa. What are some reasons people today might resist joining in the work of God? How can we encourage one another to step into what God is doing?
3. Many families and individuals took responsibility for rebuilding the wall near their own homes. How does this principle of working "close to home" apply to how we serve God today? Where might God be calling you to build or restore something within your own sphere of influence?



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4. The phrase “next to him” or “next to them” is consistently repeated, emphasizing the unity of the workers. What does this teach us about serving together in community? How have you experienced the strength or encouragement that comes from serving alongside others? In what ways has God gifted you to serve others and how might He be calling you to begin serving in our church or community?

### **Read Nehemiah 4**

5. The ridicule of Sanballat contained some truth. The people were unskilled, the work was slow and the material was not good. But they left out the most important truth: God was with them. Why is it so easy to focus on our weaknesses instead of God’s strength? How can we shift our perspective when we feel inadequate? How did Nehemiah do this?
6. Instead of responding to his enemies directly, Nehemiah turns to prayer (vv 4, 9). What does his response teach us about handling opposition? How does prayer help us refocus when we feel discouraged?
7. Because Nehemiah and the workers had legal protection from the king, Sanballat and Tobiah had no real power to stop the work. They could only discourage the people to quit (v 7). How have you seen discouragement stop people from pursuing what God has called them to do? How do you typically respond in the face of criticism or doubt? What strategies can we use to fight back against discouragement?
8. It was not safe for people to be isolated so Nehemiah implemented a strategy where a trumpet would sound if an attack came and the people would rally together (vv 19-20). How does this reflect the importance of Christian community? Who are the people in your life today who help you stand strong in faith? How can you be that person for someone else?



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