

## For the Family

**Review** our story so far:

After hearing a report that Jerusalem was in ruins, Nehemiah prayed and planned what to do. The king gave him permission to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls. He traveled to Jerusalem, inspected the walls, and rallied the people to rebuild them. The people replied, *“Let us rise up and build.”*

**Explain** that Nehemiah, chapter 3, describes the construction of the wall. He lists 75 names, 42 groups of people, 10 gates, and about 40 sections of wall totaling over 2 miles long. This was a BIG project. Nehemiah describes how people worked next to each other all around the wall to get everything done.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 12:14-21

**Talk together** about how silly it would be for a foot to say it doesn't belong to the body because it isn't a hand. Or for an ear to say it doesn't belong because it isn't an eye. How silly it would be for an eye to say to a hand, “I don't need you.” Or for the head to say to the feet, “I don't need you.”

It is silly for a child of God to say, “I don't belong.” Everyone has a place in God's world. It is silly for a child of God to say, “I don't need you.” We all need each other. The people of Jerusalem belonged to each other, and they all needed each other.

**Explain** that Nehemiah 3:12 tells us that a man named Shallum worked on the project with his daughters. He made it a family project. Imagine together what that was like. They worked hard all day; they were tired at night. But when it was done, they could look out every day and know they had a part in God's work.

Shallum taught his daughters that they belonged; they were a part of Jerusalem and had responsibility to help rebuild the walls.

**Pray together** that you will never say you don't belong or you don't need others. Tell God you will always try to do your part in the building of His Kingdom.

**Next Week:** The Builders Face Opposition to Their Project



## Forgettable Names & Boring Details

### *Nehemiah 3*

**Our Story So Far:** Nehemiah received a report that the wall around Jerusalem was in ruins, and her gates were burned. He prayed to the Lord, and made himself available to help in this crisis. Despite the risk, Nehemiah approached King Artaxerxes to ask permission to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls. As the king warmed to his project, Nehemiah was emboldened to ask for everything he needed. In the end, he said, *“the good hand of my God was upon me.”*

Nehemiah traveled to Jerusalem with a security force and supplies to rebuild the walls and gates of the city. When he arrived, he secretly inspected the walls and gates under the cover of darkness. He then rallied the people together and told them it was time to build the wall. The people agreed and set out to take on the task. Some local leaders taunted and berated the people, accusing them of rebelling against the king. Nehemiah replied that the God of heaven would help them rebuild the wall.

**This Week:** Nehemiah describes the actual rebuilding and repairing of the wall. He lists 75 names, 42 groups of people, 10 gates, and about 40 sections of wall totaling over 2 miles long. Nehemiah describes how people worked next to each other all around the wall to get everything done.

### **Open**

1. Share a time when you had a positive experience working together with a group of people on a project.

2. What are some good ways to get a group of diverse people to come together to complete a singular task?

**Review:****Read Nehemiah 2:17-20**

What was the people's response to Nehemiah's vision for rebuilding the wall?

What was Nehemiah's response to the criticism they received?

**Dig****Read Nehemiah 3:1-5**

1. How did the religious leaders set an example for the rest of the people?

How important was that?

What does that tell you about Nehemiah's leadership?

2. What does it tell you that Nehemiah knew who worked "next to" whom?

3. What different professions were represented among the builders? (Vss. 1, 8, 17, 22, 31, 32)

4. What other towns and villages of Judah and Benjamin helped build the walls? (Vss. 2, 5, 7, 13-19, 27)

5. What do verses 5 and 27 tell you about the people of Tekoa? What happens when some refuse to do their share?

6. Read verse 12.

What does this tell you about the project?

Why do you think Shallum had his daughters help?

7. What strategy did Nehemiah use in determining who worked where? (Vss. 10, 28, 30)

How was this helpful?

**Reflect**

What attitudes and actions from Nehemiah's team of wall-builders fit Christians who want to build the church?

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

1. What type of attitude is Paul addressing in verses 14-17? What is his conclusion in verse 18?

Do you ever feel that you don't belong in the church?

How could Paul's teaching here help you respond to that feeling?

2. What type of attitude is Paul addressing in verses 21-24a? What is his conclusion in verse 24b-25?

Do you ever feel that you don't need anybody in the church?

How could Paul's teaching here help you respond to that feeling?

3. Can you illustrate verse 26 from your own body? How does this relate to the church? Your group?

**Reflect**

1. What ministry has the Lord given you during this season in your life?

How are you using the gifts and opportunities he has given you? Is there someone working next to you for whom you are grateful?

2. If someone wrote a summary similar to Nehemiah 3 regarding who is doing the work at Eagle Christian Church, what would be written about you?

**Next Steps:**

- I have a specific objective in my life, which is clearly defined by my goals, priorities, and planning.
- I will seek God's wisdom, guidance, and strength, and not simply rely on my own resources.
- I will actively participate in service to the Lord.
- I will encourage others.
- With God's help, I will begin immediately to carry out the following goal in my life: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Memory Verse – Nehemiah 6:15**

*So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.*