

## remember

[Nehemiah 4.7-23]

### threat level midnight

surrounded

they mean well, don't they

### fear and frustration

losing strength, losing hope

### Nehemiah responds

don't be afraid (v.14)  
Deuteronomy 1.29

remember (v. 14)

fight (v.14)  
2 Samuel 10.12

the God who fights for us (v.20)  
Deuteronomy 1.30

Exodus 14.14

Deuteronomy 1.30

## some things to consider

fear vs. trust

Romans 8.15-39

maintaining focus

BIG GOD=small problems

small god=BIG PROBLEMS

remember

fighting along with the God who fights for us

### [big questions]

What are you afraid of—what causes fear and anxiety in your life? How does your fear motivate you?

How has God shown His love and faithfulness to you?

What battles do you need to let God fight for you? How will you join Him in the fight?

### Memorize this-

14 After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."  
-Nehemiah 4.14 (NIV)

[repair and restore.06]

[repair and restore.06]

**remember** : Nehemiah 4.7-23  
[going deeper]

What thought, idea or observation from this teaching did you find to be the most useful, encouraging, eye-opening or even troubling? Explain.

Full disclosure—what are you afraid of? How does that fear affect your decision-making?

How would you define fear? How are fear and trust connected?

### **Read Nehemiah 4.7-23**

Why do you think Sanballat, Tobiah and company reacted the way that they did? What role do you think fear played in their actions? In v.7 it says that they became angry—what is the connection between fear and anger?

How did their actions affect the wall-builders? Take a close look, do you think the threat was more real or more imagined? How often do you think our fears are more imagined than real?

What about the fears you struggle with—do they tend to be more real or more imagined? Pressures from the outside often create problems within. Sometimes, things happen or are said that aren't meant to be a threat to us, but they trigger something in our mind or heart. Why do you think this happens?

As their fears grew, it seems that the wall-builders started to become more tired and frustrated. Why does fear seem to so easily drain our strength and energy?

So how does Nehemiah respond? How does that compare to your normal response when you are feeling threatened? Why?

The first thing that Nehemiah says is, "Don't be afraid." That seems like a no-brainer, but perhaps there is something about being able to identify what is going on inside of them. Have you experienced this? Explain.

Next, Nehemiah says to remember who God is. Why is this important? BIG GOD=small problems      small god=BIG PROBLEMS  
How does the way we see and respond to our problems reveal our perspective of God?

Sometimes, opposition comes and we focus on defending so that our attention is taken off of God and placed somewhere else. When this happens, we lose and the opposition wins—without much of a fight. So what can we do to learn to keep our focus on God and how could that prove to be helpful?

At the same time, Nehemiah organized the people to be able to continue to work while actively cooperating with God in the defense of the people and the wall. Trusting God isn't just sitting back and doing nothing. How was this plan an act of trusting God?

Ultimately, Nehemiah reminded the people that the fight was God's and that He would fight for them. Why is this so difficult to remember—that God fights for us? What does it mean that God fights for us? What doesn't it mean?

### **Read 1 John 4.18 and Romans 8.15-39**

What parts of those passages do you find most encouraging? Are there any parts you find difficult to believe? How does God's love conquer fear in our lives? How can we come to experience that more and more?

What fears do you need to let God fight for in your life? In what ways do you need to learn to trust His love?