

## Day 1

February 26



### *Pray | For the strength to follow God’s eternal plan*

GOD IS GLORIFIED not only in our fulfillment of a task but also in the way we fulfill that task.

Fulfilling God’s mission can seem to be an insurmountable task. God always has a plan, and it should be followed no matter what obstacles or difficulties may arise. Taking shortcuts and “doing it your way” can have destructive results.

Nehemiah was a person who followed God’s plan. He was successful because he trusted God and he *talked* to God.



### *Read | Nehemiah 2:17-20*



### *Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Today’s Scripture verses indicate Nehemiah faced opposition and ridicule for merely inspecting the walls of Jerusalem. No work had even been started, and hardly a word of any plans had been spoken. Nehemiah took this as an opportunity to praise God and to praise his countrymen. How have you used difficulties and opposition as opportunities to exhort God?

Reflect again on your answer to the previous question. What are some ways in which you have allowed difficulties and opposition to be an obstacle in proclaiming the Word of God?

Nehemiah was light to his people, guiding them to follow God’s plan. His leadership inspired Israelites to obey God. What are some ways in which you have led others to obey God?

## Day 2

February 27



### *Pray | For God's protection*

IMAGINE IF your entire community was in complete ruins and you were charged with restoring it. You would ask yourself, “Where do we start?” many times over. Now imagine another layer of difficulty with having to defend your community from an enemy force that has every intention of stopping your restoration efforts.

You have probably never encountered such a dramatic problem; however, try to reflect on times in your life where your difficulties seemed to be piling on. You probably asked yourself over and over, “Can’t I get a break?” or, “Why, God?” It is in these instances where it is more important than ever to trust God, talk to God and rely on God.



### *Read | Nehemiah 4:1-15*



### *Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Nehemiah inspired his people to continue their work and fight for their lives by reminding them of God’s awesome power. Reflect on instances where you may have inspired others to fight for their lives by relying on God’s power. These instances could include a difficulty with mental health or physical health.

Nehemiah clearly had great wisdom as a result of his relationship with God. If Nehemiah tried to navigate his way through his problems without God, the results would likely have been much less favorable. What are the ways in which today’s society encourages us to go forth without God? How does God help you overcome them?

If you are one who often “goes it alone” without considering God, why might this be? If one of the reasons is because you do not yet have personal relationship with him, consider opening your heart to that possibility today. Your problems may not go away, but you will have God’s eternal love to fight for you.

## Day 3

February 28



*Pray | With thankfulness to God for his provisions*

BEING DEDICATED to your work, to the church, to a ministry or to a service project can be very rewarding and can glorify God.

However, sometimes we can get so involved with one task that we neglect our other responsibilities. How many times have you heard of people being so devoted to their jobs that their families fall apart? If you are involved with any service or ministry connected to the church, have you ever found yourself so immersed in it that you maybe neglected other aspects of the church or even your own family?



*Read | Nehemiah 5:1-19*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

To be sure, Nehemiah and his people had a massive task at hand in rebuilding the wall. However, they became so focused on the task of building the wall they neglected other important aspects of their lives, their relationships with one another and their relationship with God. Focus on Nehemiah 5:1-13. How can your relationship with God prevent you from making the same type of mistakes as the Israelites?

Nehemiah must have been a man of high character. He was very considerate of the needs of the oppressed and starving even though Israel itself had great needs as a nation. Nehemiah’s responsibilities had to have been overwhelming. Think of some of the characteristics Nehemiah might have possessed. How are you similar to Nehemiah, and how is God prompting you to be more like him?

Everyone has a certain set of gifts and unique characteristics. These can sometimes be called spiritual gifts. Everyone is special to God, and God’s love is enormous and infinite. God wants you to use your spiritual gifts. Is there any treatment of other people in the world today that makes you angry and prompts you to use your spiritual gifts and take action?

*Day 4*  
*March 1*



*Pray | Praising God for victory over our inabilities and shortcomings*

GOD HAS a purpose for everything he does. The Old Testament is full of stories about God rescuing his people from their own self-destructive behaviors and attacks from external forces.

The Israelites were successful in rebuilding the wall because they ultimately obeyed God. They began to stray near the beginning of the rebuild, but they repented of their ways and followed God’s plan.



*Read | Nehemiah 6:15-16*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Today’s Scripture verses indicated that other nations felt fearful when they learned the wall was built and that it was to be credited to God. There is a good possibility that other nations recognized God’s work because the Israelites demonstrated glorifying God through their work. Where in your life have you given credit to God for your accomplishments? What type of example might this set for non-Christians around you?

When have you seen God do something so amazing that upon reflection you realized only God could have done it? What were the circumstances, and what was your response?

What is the danger in failing to give God glory for success? Spend some time in prayer, and ask God to show you places in your life where you need to give him the glory he is due.

*Day 5*  
*March 2*



*Pray | With thankfulness to God for his grace*

GOD’S GRACE is so awesome and amazing he sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to die in order to forgive all of our sins and the sins of all—past, present and future.

Jesus Christ is the wall that God built to protect us from our sins, iniquities and shortcomings.



*Read | Nehemiah 9:1-6; 1 John 1:5-2:2*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

The Israelites in Nehemiah’s day needed the Book of the Law of Moses to protect them. They realized that they needed the law because they recognized that all people sin. How does accepting the fact that you are a sinner important for realizing the need for Jesus Christ in your life?

The prayer of confession in Nehemiah 9:1-6 provided the Israelites with a sense of renewal. This was much needed because they had just returned to the Promised Land after years of captivity and accomplished the rebuilding of the wall. What are some circumstances in which you have renewed your relationship with Jesus Christ, and how can you encourage others to do so?

If you are considering a relationship with Jesus Christ, realize his love, grace and protection are available to all of the world. Recognize sin, confess, repent of it and ask Jesus Christ into your heart. He will meet you right where you are.

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