WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

Sermon: FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY
Key Scripture: Nehemiah 1:3, NIV
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/fighting-for-your-family
Date + Speaker: June 23, 2024 Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter:
If your family had a theme song, what would it be?

Discussion:
Read Nehemiah 1:1-11

1. Pastor Mark said: *"Every family is facing something".* Reflect on what your *"something"* is within your own family (Nuclear family, extended family, church family…). Is it relational? Emotional?

    - In Nehemiah's case the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and its gates were burned with fire (Nehemiah 1:3, NIV). What did Nehemiah do when he heard the about the plight of his people?

2. Read Nehemiah 4:1-2 What did Sanballat say? Pastor Mark declared: *"Stop looking at your rubble, look to God!"* Share practical ways that you can change your focus/perspective about challenges in your life by turning to God in your struggle.

3. What was the "good work" that Nehemiah talked about in Nehemiah 2:18? Discuss ways we can fight for our families.

4. Discuss the five ways mentioned in the sermon to fight for your family: **Pray**, **Protect**, **Put** your family back together, **Ponder** who God is and **Persevere** while fighting for your family. How can you action these principles in your relationships?

5. What can you learn from Nehemiah's actions? Pastor Mark said: *"Put on the full armour of God and don't you give up!"*

- What is the *"full armour of God"?* Read Ephesians 6:10-20. How well are you equipped to fight the spiritual battles in your life?
- How can you strengthen your conviction that our heavenly Father fights for His children? Read Nehemiah 4:20.

Reflection/Prayer: Open yourself to God's presence. Ask Him to empower you to support and encourage your family instead of fighting with them. Ask God to speak to you and to reveal Himself through His Word. Thank Him for His promise to strengthen His faithful followers.