WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

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Series Title: NEHEMIAH SERMON SERIES: PART TWO
Key Scripture: Nehemiah 4, 5 and 6
Recorded Sermon:
www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/nehemiah-series-part-2
Date + Speaker: February 9, 2025 | Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter: What's one small project or goal you started but found difficult to finish?

The Big Idea: Overcoming opposition—both external criticism and internal doubt—requires steadfast faith, strategic action, and a focus on God's purpose. We can confront challenges with prayer, resilience, and integrity, ensuring that we stay committed to God's calling despite obstacles.

Discussion:

1. Read Nehemiah 4:1 - 12. According to the passage, who were Sanballat and Tobiah, and what were they trying to do to the Jews?
2. What was happening to the people of Judah in verses 10 - 12?
3. What do we understand by the word discouragement, and which is more damaging - external or internal discouragement?
4. Identify ways by which discouragement (internal and external) can happen.
5. What practical steps can be taken to overcome discouragement using Nehemiah's example - Nehemiah chapter 4:4-5, 13, 14, 16.

6. Sometimes discouragement can come from seemingly legitimate concerns. How can we recognise when something is a distraction rather than a legitimate concern? (Nehemiah 6:1 - 4).
7. The wall was completed despite opposition. What can we learn from this about perseverance? How can this strengthen our faith?
8. How can we encourage people who are overwhelmed by setbacks and struggle to finish what they have started?
9. In what ways can we model Nehemiah’s example of focusing on God’s calling in our homes, workplace and relationships?