

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## NEHEMIAH SERIES

These questions are for the **September 18, 2016** sermon, "Nighttime Inspection." Please read the sermon passage (Nehemiah 2:9-20) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline:

AFTER PRAYERFUL PLANNING, DISCERN GOD'S HAND AT WORK . . .

1. **As you evaluate the needs (9-16)**
  - A. Take inventory of the mission God has called us to undertake. Measure it.
  - B. Note that Nehemiah did his work at night, while others slept.
  - C. Never confuse complacency (inactivity) with contentment (satisfaction).
2. **Communicate the vision (17-18)**
  - A. Refuse to give into the temptation to provide 'vision' before you have evaluated the situation. Pray first. Then pray as you evaluate. Then pray as you formulate a plan. Then pray as you communicate the plan.
  - B. Never let the trouble, or size of the task overwhelm you. Keep your eyes on God.
  - C. Nehemiah identified himself with the people: "*We* are in trouble." "Let *us* build the wall." A good leader does not place himself over his people, but with them.
3. **As you anticipate the opposition (19-20)**
  - A. The opposition tried to discourage Nehemiah, giving him no credence or hope that his desire or claim could come to be.
  - B. Be ready for those who will discourage. Remain on your mission from God.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Before leaders lead, they define their task and then evaluate the needs around them. What is the mission that God has given us to do? What tasks are you called to that contribute to the success of this mission? What kinds of activities fill up your life that have nothing to do with the success of this mission?
2. Based on #1, above: Believers must be ever-active in our work and calling, while ever-content with the roles God has called us to. How are activity and contentment in conflict in your life? Have you ever confused complacency with contentment? How can we war against this?
3. Based on #2, above: We must not be discouraged by the size of any task to which God has called us. Are you discouraged? How have you overcome discouragement in the past? Nehemiah does not "solve" his discouragement, he simply moves ahead with the plan in spite of it. What can you learn from him?
4. Based on #3, above: Those opposed to God and his will will try to discourage you from even trying to tackle a mission for God. Where do you see this in your own life? How can we, your friends, encourage you? God is at work as you join him, submitting yourself to his will.