



Get Busy Building – Study Guide

Main Theme

In the seasons of God for our lives, **there is a time to build and a time to break down** (Ecclesiastes 3:3).

There was an appointed time for Joshua to break down Jericho's walls and another time for Nehemiah to build up Jerusalem's.

Has God called you build something new or rebuild something of old? Perhaps it is a new family, a new business, a new career, or a new ministry? Or maybe it is dusting off and rebuilding an old dream?

1. ■ A vision driven by compassion

And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and disgrace, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates have been burned with fire." 4 Now when I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. – Neh 1:3-4 NASB20

Nehemiah Chapter 1 records the true catalyst that jump-started his building project – **"Compassion"**.

After receiving word from messengers regarding the demolished condition of Jerusalem, Nehemiah's heart became overwhelmed with compassion for the people.

Building with God starts with compassion, not a vision. Any true call to build something never begins with a discovery of talent, but of a discovery of who is to be helped. In fact, not knowing one's who is a threat to one's talents.

After Nehemiah discovered his **WHO**, his **HOW** and **WHAT** came later.

Reflection Questions:

- When seeking to build your new endeavor, are you clear on who you are called to help?
- Has God given you compassion for them?

2. ■ Seeing and Thinking Differently

Then Eliashib the high priest arose with his brothers the priests and built the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and installed its doors. They consecrated the wall to the Tower of the

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Hundred [and] the Tower of Hananel. And next to him the men of Jericho built, and next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built. Now the sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and installed its doors with its bolts and bars... – Neh 3:1-3 NASB20

A light cast onto a tall building often produces a shadow that is larger than the building itself. Anytime God calls or casts His light onto someone to build or rebuild something, the shadow that gets produced (the future state) will always be much larger than the leader. Big builds require big teams.

After getting clear on who to help, Nehemiah then focused on communicating his compassion and vision to others and recruiting them as building partners.

It is fascinating that Nehemiah devoted this entire chapter to tell us about his co-workers and building functions. In a similar fashion, Paul also recorded a comprehensive listing of his co-workers in Romans 16. Both Nehemiah and Paul secured trustworthy partners who contributed to different aspects of their Kingdom building projects based on their own unique gifts and graces.

Like Nehemiah, when God calls you to build something, it will always demand strong partnerships and a team. Jesus Himself started with a team of twelve and now has billions of partnerships world-wide.

How does one build a team? Practically speaking, it begins with defining who needs to be on the bus to make your build a reality. Nehemiah needed folks like goldsmiths, merchants, ironworkers, & inspectors. You may need lawyers, engineers, architects, experts, assistants, co-authors, ministry mentors, therapists, coaches, IT professionals, graphic designers, pastors, salesmen, or more. I have needed all these plus when building various things with God.

How does one afford all these resources? Don't worry, God will always resource what He desires to restore.

Solomon emphasized the importance of building teams in much of his writings. **“With many advisors there is success” (Proverbs 24:6)**. This means that good visionaries are not afraid to recruit people who know more than them on various matters.

Reflection Questions:

- Who can do what I cannot do, so I can do what I am called to?

3. ■ Dealing with opposition

Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry, and he mocked the Jews. – Neh 4:1 NASB20

There are 7 types of oppositions that Nehemiah and his men faced while rebuilding the Jerusalem walls: Ridicule, threat of attack, discouragement, extortion, compromise, slander, and treachery. Each required their own strategy to resolve. Anytime you are called to build

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something, you will face opposition from people – some of whom may be very close to you. Expect for others to misunderstand your purpose and mission.

There were two primary opposers who slandered Nehemiah: Sanballat and Tobiah.

Sanballat scorned the workmen: “**These feeble Jews” What will they do for materials? Will they revive the stones out of the rubbish? (Neh 4:2 NASB).**

Tobiah scorned the work itself: “**There going to make some Sorry work, and they themselves will be ashamed of it”: If a fox go up (with his weight) he will break down their stone wall.” (Neh 4:3 NASB).**

Because of their ignorance, both attempted to discourage Nehemiah and his team from building what God put in their hearts. However, the team refused to listen and maintained a strong focus on the work:

Let’s zero in on one type of opposition today: **Slander.**

Reflection Questions:

- What kinds of opposition have you faced in your building journey and how are you currently handling it?
- What did you learn from how Nehemiah handled slander?

■ ■ Key lesson

“**Everybody, listen! Our brother (Jesus) has gone crazy! You should not listen to what He is telling you” (Mark 3:14).**

The reproaches of your slanderers should accelerate your build rather than drive you from it.

The chief Kingdom builder, Christ Jesus, also experienced slander and opposition. A few weeks after starting His earthly ministry, his own brothers began slandering him.

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One day they see hundreds of people gathered around Jesus and his disciples. They ran over, grabbed him by the arm, and attempted to bring him back home. As they do they begin telling the crowd.

Wow. Jesus' own family discouraging others to not listen to the very words spoken out of God in the flesh!

You may hear likewise, "don't pay attention to them. They have lost their mind trying to build this and that".

But they don't see God's vision for your life. They don't sense your compassion. They may never.

How did Jesus' respond to His slanderers? He ignored their words, but with great love, turned around and died on a cross for them a few years later. Like Jesus, love your slanderers anyways. Create boundaries, but lay down your life for them, too.

■ ■ Summary

Are you in your building season? Start with compassion. Clarify who you are called to help. Then, through prayer, cast vision and solicit partners to help. Listen to wise counsel but ignore opposition.

Now, get busy building!