

THE LEADER WITHIN
THE STRUGGLE OF A LEADER

The BIG Idea Team, Individual and Family Study Guide

Please take time to run through this study guide with your team, on your own, or with your family so that you can further apply and process the BIG Idea.

Big Idea:

As we pursue next steps in our journey with God, He will allow us to face struggles and challenges that will mold and shape us into the people He created us to be.

Key Verse:

Read Nehemiah 4:13-14 (The Message)

So I stationed armed guards at the most vulnerable places of the wall and assigned people by families with their swords, lances, and bows. After looking things over I stood up and spoke to the nobles, officials, and everyone else: "Don't be afraid of them. Put your minds on the Master, great and awesome, and then fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

The Scoop:

Nehemiah has taken on the huge task of rebuilding the city walls of Jerusalem. Even though he takes wise steps in spreading the work out among the many different people helping, he still encounters opposition and struggles on his journey.

We may not be taking on the task of rebuilding a city's walls, but we will face opposition and struggle in our journey with God and in our efforts to help others take next steps in their relationship with Him. Some of us will deal with issues with our own faith and others of us will struggle with sharing our faith with others. Regardless of whether its fear of offending people or being labeled a religious fanatic, having friends and family members think we are taking this spirituality thing a bit too far, or issues within our church of faith community; we can be sure we will face opposition and struggle on the way to becoming who God wants us to be.

We can learn a lot from Nehemiah's determination, perseverance, and willingness to sacrifice as he sought to serve God. Like in Nehemiah's story, God can help us identify and deal with our struggles, we don't have to rely upon our own strengths.

1. Have you ever faced opposition to helping people take next steps in their relationship with God?
2. To show their trust and dependence upon God, Noah built an ark, Solomon built the Temple, Nehemiah built a wall; what are you building for God?
3. What is your deepest struggle when it comes to helping people find their way back to God – what do you need most from God:
 - a. Courage/confidence
 - b. Knowledge
 - c. Desire/passion
 - d. Sense of urgency
 - e. Lost people
 - f. other

What's Next? (take home/further processing/application)

The 3 main barriers to moving forward in faith or in working to help others in their faith are **Fear, Foes, and Fatigue**. Identify (write them down) your main concerns for each barrier. How will you work this week to trust God with at least one of those barriers?