

EXILES

“Why should the work stop?”

Nehemiah 3-6







Types in Nehemiah

Nehemiah → Jesus

The Return Exiles → The Church

Sanballat/Tobiah (various opponents) → Satan

The Wall → The Kingdom of God



Kingdom Work: The Great Commission

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

EXILES

Summitview Church can overcome
threats to the completion of God's
work by following these examples
from Nehemiah 3-6.



Chapter 3 - Every worker is needed

Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set its doors. They consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananel. And next to him the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

Nehemiah 3:1–2



Chapter 3 - Every worker is needed

...we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:15–16

EXILES

Share how God uses
others in particular
to help our church family grow.
(Type/Talk)



Chapter 4 & 6 - Opposition is met with prayer

“...What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?” Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!”

Nehemiah 4:1–3



Chapter 4 & 6 - Opposition is met with prayer

“Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.”

Nehemiah 4:4–5



EXILES

Chapter 4 & 6 - Opposition is met with prayer

But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. And **they all plotted together to come and fight** against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.

Nehemiah 4:7-8



Chapter 4 & 6 - Opposition is met with prayer

In Judah it was said, “The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall.” And our enemies said, “They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work.”

Nehemiah 4:10-11



Chapter 4 & 6 - Opposition is met with prayer

And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

Nehemiah 4:9



EXILES

Chapter 4 & 6 - Opposition is met with prayer

And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"

Nehemiah 6:3



Chapter 4 & 6 - Opposition is met with prayer

Then I sent to him, saying, “No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind.” For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done.” **But now, O God, strengthen my hands.**

Nehemiah 6:8–9



EXILES

Chapter 4 & 6 - Opposition is met with prayer

Now when I went into the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home, he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple. Let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. They are coming to kill you by night.”

Nehemiah 6:10



Chapter 4 & 6 - Opposition is met with prayer

But I said, "Should such a man as I run away? And what man such as I could go into the temple and live? I will not go in."

Nehemiah 6:11

EXILES

...

Chapter 4 & 6 - Opposition is met with prayer

Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, according to these things that they did, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who wanted to make me afraid.

Nehemiah 6:14



EXILES

...

Chapter 4 & 6 - Opposition is met with prayer

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:11–12



...

Chapter 4 & 6 - Opposition is met with prayer

Therefore take up the whole armor of God...praying at all times in the Spirit.

Ephesians 6:13,18



EXILES

...



Pray in the Spirit for protection
from discouragement in the work
for those around you.

(Type/Pray)



Chapter 5 - Love & unity overcomes division

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34–35

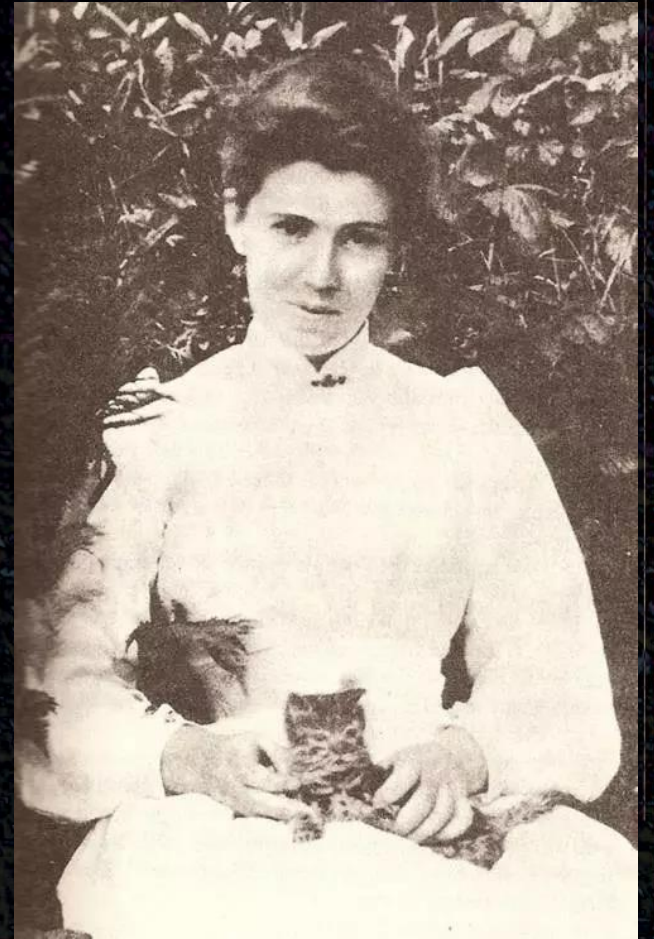
[I ask] that they (believers) may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. John 17:23



Chapter 5 - Love & unity overcomes division

“Unlove is deadly. It is a cancer. It may kill slowly, but it always kills in the end...If unlove be discovered anywhere, stop everything and put it right, if possible, at once.”

Amy Carmichael



Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any area of disunity/unlove between you and another Christian.

EXILES

Completion of the Work

So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

Nehemiah 6:15-16



Discussion Questions

1. Dream and discuss what your house church might experience if every member obeyed the command to build up Christ's Body (Ephesians 4:15–16).
2. What opposition are you experiencing currently for which your house church could be in prayer? (Ephesians 6:18)
3. Brainstorm fresh ways for your house church to pursue love/unity & discipling the nations. (John 13:34–35, 17:23, Matthew 28:19-20)

EXILES