

BE BOLD

A BOLD WORK

Nehemiah: various passages



Nehemiah: Various Passages

The book of Nehemiah opens with bad news from Jerusalem. The wall is broken down and the gates are burned. Nehemiah weeps, mourns, fasts, and prays. What follows is not a story about a strong man who simply “got it done.” It is the story of God’s hand on a cupbearer and a remnant who asked, rose up, and kept working when enemies tried to stop them.

First, A BOLD REQUEST (Nehemiah 1:11, after the context of 1:1-4) shows that bold work begins with God. Nehemiah hears that the remnant is in great affliction and that the wall is broken down. He does not rush the king first. He prays. Verse 11 asks the Lord to prosper His servant and to grant him mercy in the sight of “this man”—Artaxerxes. We cannot do bold work on our own. We need God’s strength, protection, and provision. The request to heaven comes before the request to the throne.

Second, A BOLD RESPONSE (Nehemiah 2:17-18) shows the people answering the call. Nehemiah tells them of the distress, the ruined wall, and “the hand of my God which was good upon me.” They do not only admire the vision. They say, “Let us rise up and build.” Then they strengthen their hands for this good work. Bold work needs more than one leader. It needs a people who respond in faith because they believe God’s hand is in it.

Finally, A BOLD RESOLVE (Nehemiah 4:7-9, 15-17) shows them continuing when danger comes. Sanballat, Tobiah, and their allies are angry and conspire to fight. The people pray and set a watch. God brings the enemy’s counsel to nought. Half work, half hold spears. The builders labor with a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other. Bold resolve is not loud talk. It is prayer, watchfulness, and steady work when the threat is real.

Application Question #1

Nehemiah 1:1-4 shows Nehemiah weeping over Jerusalem’s broken wall. Why was that news so heavy? What does it teach us about caring for God’s people and God’s work before we try to “fix” anything?

Application Question #2

In Nehemiah 1:11 Nehemiah asks God for mercy in the sight of the king. Why must a bold request go to God first? How do we need the Lord’s strength, protection, and provision for the work He gives us?

Application Question #3

In Nehemiah 2:17-18 the people say, “Let us rise up and build,” after they hear that God’s hand is upon Nehemiah. What is the difference between liking a good idea and boldly responding in faith?

Application Question #4

In Nehemiah 4 the people pray, watch, and keep building with a tool and a weapon. When work for the Lord gets hard or opposed, what does bold resolve look like for our family this week?

BE BOLD

A BOLD WORK

Nehemiah: various passages



LEADER GUIDE

Application Answer #1

The broken wall meant shame, danger, and a city that no longer displayed the honor of God's name among the nations. Nehemiah's tears come before his plans. Application: Bold work starts with a heart that cares what happens to God's people. Family step: Pray for the church by name—not only for projects, but for holiness and help.

Application Answer #2

Verse 11 sits at the end of a prayer to the "God of heaven." Nehemiah is cupbearer to a pagan king, but he knows provision comes from the Lord. Application: We ask God first because we cannot rebuild what only He can bless. Encourage the family to name one need and pray before they problem-solve.

Application Answer #3

The people rise up because they hear two things: the need, and the good hand of God. Faith-response is more than agreement; it is strengthened hands. Application: Talk about one way your family can say "let us rise up" in actual obedience—serving, gathering, encouraging, finishing a given task.

Application Answer #4

They pray and set a watch (4:9). God frustrates the enemy (4:15). They keep working armed (4:16-17). Resolve is dependence plus diligence. Action ideas: When opposition or fear comes, pray first, stay faithful to the task God has given, and remember that Christ builds His church. Do not treat every critic as Sanballat; do take real threats seriously and keep doing the next right work. Encourage: The wall was God's work through a praying servant and a responding people.