

Nehemiah: Proceed in Faith and Trust

Opening Question: What is something meaningful you've built in your life? How did you protect or maintain it?

Key Takeaways:

1. Building for God requires both construction and defense.
2. Our spiritual life needs constant nurturing and protection.
3. Love is an action, not just a feeling.
4. We must actively fight for our marriages and families.
5. Building ministries requires faithful people with both "trowels and swords."

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. **Read Nehemiah 4:15-18.** The sermon highlighted how Nehemiah's men worked and protected what they were building simultaneously. Pastor Dan said, "You can't just build something. You also need to defend and protect it."
 - a. How do you currently build and defend your spiritual life with God? What challenges do you face?
 - b. In what ways does Satan try to undermine the things we are building for God, and how can we stay vigilant against these attacks?
3. **Read Revelation 12:10.** This passage talks about the accuser being hurled down. How do you deal with accusations or negative thoughts in your spiritual journey? What role does the Word of God play in this?
4. Discuss the importance of using God's Word as a "sword" in spiritual warfare. How can we practically incorporate this into our daily lives?
5. **Read John 13:34.** Jesus commands us to love one another as He has loved us. Can you think of examples where you have seen or experienced this kind of love in action in your life or community? How can we actively demonstrate this love to others?
6. **Read Philippians 2:3-4.** Pastor Dan mentioned love is an action (something we DO) that involves putting others' interests before our own. How do these verses challenge our natural inclinations? What steps can we take to cultivate humility in our relationships—especially in our marriages and homes?
7. What are some ways parents can practically "build up" and "defend" their children in today's world?
8. What ministries or areas of service are you involved in? How can you both "build" and "defend" in these roles?

Practical Applications:

1. Spiritual Growth: Commit to a daily Bible reading and prayer routine this week.
2. Marriage: Choose one way to prioritize your spouse's interests over your own each day.
3. Parenting: Plan a special activity with your child (e.g., fathers, consider the daddy-daughter dance mentioned).
4. Ministry: Identify one area where you can serve in the church or community, using both your "trowel" (skills) and "sword" (spiritual gifts).

5. Community: Reach out to another group member for prayer and encouragement this week.

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, We thank You for the insights and lessons we've shared today. As we go forward, help us to build strong spiritual lives, relationships, and communities with Your guidance and protection. Equip us with Your Word and empower us to love and serve one another faithfully. May Your peace and strength be with us always. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.