

## Small Group Guide: Distracted From Doing The Best

**Key Scripture:** Nehemiah 6:1-12

**Opening Question:** If you could instantaneously build or fix anything in your life with the snap of a finger, what would it be and why?

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. God has called each of us to build something significant for His kingdom.
2. The enemy uses various tactics to try to neutralize our effectiveness.
3. Keeping Jesus as our top priority helps all other areas of life stay in proper alignment.
4. We must be discerning about seemingly good opportunities that may distract us from God's best.

### **Bible Study & Discussion Questions:**

1. **Read Nehemiah 2:20 and Nehemiah 6:1-4.** Nehemiah was focused on the great work God called him to do. What has God called you to build in your current season of life? How can you prioritize this call amidst potential distractions?
2. Nehemiah responded to distractions by saying, "I am carrying out a great project and cannot come down." How can we apply this principle to our own lives when faced with distractions?
3. **Read 2 Corinthians 2:11 (NIV).** The sermon mentioned being aware of Satan's schemes. Can you identify some modern distractions or tactics that might sidetrack you from your spiritual goals? How can being aware of these schemes help you stay focused?
4. Pastor Dan mentioned four ways the enemy tries to stop us from building what God has called us to: a) Distraction b) Slander c) Fear d) Deception Which of these do you struggle with most? Share an example.
5. How can we distinguish between legitimate concerns and worry that paralyzes us?
6. **Read 2 Timothy 1:7.** Discuss the difference between concern and worry in your life. How does understanding God's gift of a sound mind and love help you manage situations that would otherwise cause fear or anxiety?
7. **Read Isaiah 41:10 and Joshua 1:9.** Both verses emphasize that God is with us and encourages us not to fear. In what ways have you experienced fear in your spiritual journey? How does the promise of God's presence help you address those fears?
8. The pastor emphasized the importance of keeping Jesus as the "hub" of our lives. What areas of your life might be out of alignment with this priority?
9. **Read Philippians 3:13-14.** Paul talks about forgetting what is behind and striving toward what is ahead. What past distractions or habits could be holding you back from your spiritual growth? How can you forget what is behind and press forward effectively?

**Practical Applications:**

1. Take inventory of your priorities this week. Are there any adjustments needed to keep Jesus first?
2. Practice saying "no" to one good, but potentially distracting, opportunity this week to focus on what God has called you to build.
3. When faced with fear or worry, meditate on Isaiah 41:10 or Joshua 1:9 to remind yourself of God's presence and strength.
4. If you've gotten "off the wall," identify one concrete step you can take to re-engage with God's calling for your life.

**Closing Prayer:** Lord, help us to stay focused on building what You've called us to build— knowing that we would be unable to accomplish Your calling in our lives without Your great help. Give us discernment to recognize distractions and the strength to resist them. Grant us wisdom to say “No” to the things (even good things) that compete with what you have called us to do. May we keep You as the center of our lives, surrendering every area of our lives for Your glory and to Your will. Thank You for Your presence that overcomes our fears. In Jesus' name, Amen.