

## A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of May 24, 2020

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a “worship discussion” guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

### ***His Servants Will Arise & Build: Nehemiah 2:9-20***

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Nehemiah 2:9-20](#). Read this week’s sermon text and select just a few questions below to study and consider this Scripture together:

*With a well-provisioned, well-armed group of fellow travelers, Nehemiah makes the long, 800-mile journey to Jerusalem.*

- What does Nehemiah **see and do** after arriving in Jerusalem (11-16)?
  - Why does Nehemiah tour the **city at night** (12)?
  - Upon completing his inspection, **what challenge** does Nehemiah give to the people (17-18a)? How do the **people respond** (18b)?
  - How do the regional governing **officials react** (19)? How does **Nehemiah respond** to them (20)?
  - By the end of this chapter, we have been introduced to three opponents to Nehemiah’s vision (10,19):
    - Sanballat the Horonite governed Samaria, to the north of Judah.
    - Tobiah the Ammonite governed Ammon, to the east of Judah.
    - Geshem the Arab governed the area south of Judah.
- The Ashdodites (who dwelt to the west of Judah) will be introduced as a fourth opponent in chapter 4. What does Nehemiah want us to **understand about the opposition** he faces?
- Nehemiah finds Jerusalem to be **as bad as reported** and he is **surrounded by opponents**. Still, he seeks to **rebuild**. **Why?** What is the **source of Nehemiah’s strength**?
  - **How do you need boldness and strength** today as you follow Jesus?
  - The songs and hymns used in Sunday’s liturgy each address how God’s people find courage and strength for ministry. [Choose one](#) to read, sing or hear as a meditation. For example, the congregation sang [Your Labor is Not in Vain](#) as a part of worship. [Listen](#) or [sing together](#), reflecting on the promises of God in our work, ministry, and relationships.
  - We began Sunday’s worship service with a reading of [Psalm 48:1-3, 12-14](#). This prayer and song would have been very familiar to Nehemiah and those rebuilding Jerusalem. Read it together now to begin a time of **praying in response to God’s Word**.
    - *Thank the Lord, our Fortress, for His power & promises.*
    - *Ask the Lord to strengthen the hands of His servants. Pray specifically for our church leaders and members.*
    - *Ask God to incline the hearts of our leaders to show favor to the people of God as they pursue His will, on earth as it is in heaven.*