

## A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of June 14, 2020

### **Sword & Trowel**

*This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Nehemiah 4:15-23](#)*

<sup>15</sup> When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. <sup>16</sup> From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, <sup>17</sup> who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other. <sup>18</sup> And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me. <sup>19</sup> And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "The work is great and widely spread, and we are

separated on the wall, far from one another. <sup>20</sup> In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."

<sup>21</sup> So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out. <sup>22</sup> I also said to the people at that time, "Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day." <sup>23</sup> So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; each kept his weapon at his right hand.

- **What kind of life, ministry & work environment** does Nehemiah describe in this passage?
- How is the **Christian life similar** to what Nehemiah describes? In what ways do we engage in the work of the Kingdom with a shovel in one hand and a sword in the other?
- How could Nehemiah **be so confident that "Our God will fight for us"** (20)? Read [Exodus 14:14](#) and [Deuteronomy 1:30](#) for further insight.
- How can we be **assured that our God will fight for us today**?
- What are the **threats to God's people today**? Read [Ephesians 6:12](#), [1 Peter 5:8](#), [Matthew 15:19](#), and [1 John 2:16](#) for more insight.
- Part of Nehemiah's ministry was to **lead God's people away from the fear of opposition and into a reliance on God**. Who has had a similar ministry in your life? How is God using you to lead others from fear to trusting Jesus Christ?
- Read [1 John 5:4](#) and [Romans 8:14-17](#). How does new life in Christ & adoption as sons change our understanding of **how God sees us**? How does it change our **ability to face opposition**?

### **Pray in response to God's Word.**

- *Show us the roots of unbelief and grant us repentance and faith.*
- *Help us to recall Your gracious provision in the Gospel.*
- *Help us to know with Nehemiah, "Our God will fight for us."*