**Small Group Bible Study**

The Basics

Part 3 Serving

# Bible Study: *Building God’s Kingdom One Block at a Time*

### **Opening Prayer** Lord, thank You for bringing us together. As we open Your Word, help us to see what You’re calling us to build in Your kingdom. Give us clarity, courage, and faith to trust You. Amen.

**Icebreaker**

* If you could build anything (no cost, no time limits), what would you build and why?
* Follow-up: What’s the hardest project you’ve ever worked on, and what helped you keep going?

**Sermon Recap**

Pastor Aaron reminded us that **God is always at work—even through unlikely people and places.** In Nehemiah, God stirred the hearts of pagan kings and called Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem’s wall. Nehemiah’s success came from this pattern: **pray first, act second.** The work wasn’t done by one person but by everyone taking their place, laying their block, and staying faithful despite opposition. The main theme: *Each of us has a block to lay in God’s kingdom—our job is to be faithful where He’s placed us.*

**Scripture Reading & Discussion**

#### **1. God Moves Hearts: Nehemiah 2:1–8**

* **Observation:** What do you notice about how God uses the king in this story?
* **Interpretation:** Why do you think the sermon emphasized “God moved”? What does this reveal about His control over world events?
* **Application:** Where in your life are you tempted to believe “things have gone too far” for God to work?

**2. Pray First, Act Second: Nehemiah 2:4–6**

* **Observation:** What did Nehemiah do before answering the king?
* **Interpretation:** Why is praying before acting so important, especially when facing big decisions?
* **Application:** How can you build the habit of praying before speaking or acting in your daily life?

**3. Everyone Has a Place: Nehemiah 3:1–5 (skim whole chapter if time)**

* **Observation:** Who was building? What stands out about the teamwork?  
   **Interpretation:** How does this connect with Paul’s teaching in 1 Corinthians 12:12–20 about the body of Christ?  
   **Application:** Where has God “placed you on the wall” today? What’s the “block” He’s asking you to lay?

**4. Facing Opposition – Nehemiah 4:1–9**

* **Observation:** What tactics did Sanballat and Tobiah use to discourage the builders?
* **Interpretation:** How did Nehemiah respond? What balance do you see between prayer and practical action?
* **Application:** What “distractions” or “ridicule” do you face when you’re living out your faith? How do you respond?

**5. Strength for the Work – *Nehemiah 6:1–16***

* **Observation:** What distractions were thrown at Nehemiah? How did he respond?
* **Interpretation:** Why is Nehemiah’s prayer in verse 9 so powerful: *“Now strengthen my hands”*?
* **Application:** Instead of asking God to remove difficulties, how might you pray for strength to continue faithfully?

**Sermon Recap Questions**

* What stood out most to you from Pastor Aaron’s teaching?
* How did you see the theme of “pray first, act second” in Nehemiah’s life?
* What does it mean to “build the kingdom one block at a time”?
* Where do you see “block envy” in yourself—wanting someone else’s place or role instead of embracing your own?

**Application Questions**

* What’s one practical way you can “lay your block” this week? (home, work, church, neighborhood)
* Who can you encourage to keep building where God has placed them?
* How might your faithfulness today impact others noticing “this work had been done with the help of our God” (Neh. 6:16)?

**Closing Prayer**

“Father, thank You for reminding us that You are still building Your kingdom. Help us to pray first, act second, and stay faithful to the block You’ve given us. Strengthen our hands for the work ahead, and may others see Your hand in all we do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”