

Hearing from God
Today's Talk: Healthy Conflict Management
Nehemiah 4:1-23

NOTES:

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study:

For Starters: Have you ever been involved in something that was criticized, ridiculed or condemned where you felt like quitting but pressed on anyway? How did it make you feel? What did you learn about yourself? Others? God?

The Basics: Read Nehemiah Chapter Four. What was the underlying cause of the conflict (see Nehemiah 2:10, 19-20)? How did the conflict intensify and impact the Israelites? What was Nehemiah's response to both the opposition and his team? What specifically stands out to you and why?

Quick Fire Round:

- Read Neh. 4:1-6. What were Sanballat's opening conflict tactics? Have you experienced ridicule, character assassination? How did it make you feel? What was Nehemiah's first line of defense? Read Ephesians 6:10-19. What can you learn and apply?
- Read Neh. 4:7-9 and Colossians. 4:2-4. What was the enemies second tactic and desired goal? How did Nehemiah respond? When dealing with conflict, why is it important to set up boundaries?
- Read Neh. 4:10 and 2 Corinthians 10:2-6. The third wave of attack brought discouragement from within. Why is discouragement sometimes the hardest form of conflict to confront and move on from? How do you deal with discouragement?
- Read Neh. 4:11-23 and 1 Corinthians 15:58. Finally, the enemies used fear tactics. When have you had to face fear and what happened? How did Nehemiah personally deal with fear as well as lead the people through it?
- Read Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 18:15-17 and 2 Corinthians 5:11-20. What are some healthy ways the Bible gives to manage conflict? How can you practice these and avoid bitterness, resentment and even gossip in your life and relationships?

The challenge: Why did Nehemiah refuse to back down from the goal of rebuilding the wall? How did vision trump opposition? Complete the following sentence. *In order to overcome conflict in my life I will choose to...* Take some time to pray, identify areas of conflict in your life and determine a plan to overcome.