

## **January Teaching Theme:** The Book of Nehemiah

讲员 Speaker: Pastor Tian / Dr. Stacey Minger

题目 Topic: 步步引领、城墙完工 / The Wall

经文 Scripture: Nehemiah 6

**Monthly Theme:** As we enter a new year, we will spend some time walking through the book of Nehemiah over the next nine weeks. Although Nehemiah is its own book in our English Bibles, the whole book is actually Ezra-Nehemiah together. So as we approach Nehemiah, we have to keep in mind that we are coming into the story 3/4th of the way through. If we go back to the beginning of the story in Ezra, we are told that God moved King Cyrus' heart to let the Israelites return to their land to fulfill the prophecy spoken by Jeremiah (Ezra 1). The hope that exile will not be forever should trigger the reader to pick up all the other prophetic hopes of return, including hope for the Messianic King, God's presence in the Temple, and God's Kingdom to be established. We must keep these hopes in mind as we read to the story to properly understand both the ups and downs. Most characters in the Biblical narrative, including Nehemiah, are deeply flawed individuals who have a mix of successes and failures - just like you and me. And this mix of success and failure we will keep confronting as we move through the story of Nehemiah. Let's see what we can learn from Nehemiah's story.

### 一月 **January:** 尼希米記 **Nehemiah**

January 2nd – 尼希米記: 尼希米的祈禱 The Prayer (尼希米記一章 Nehemiah 1)

January 9th - 尼希米記: 城牆工程 The Project (尼希米記二至三章 Nehemiah 2-3)

January 16th - 尼希米記: 敵黨擾阻 The Opposition (尼希米記四章 Nehemiah 4)

January 23rd – 尼希米記: 民生貧苦 The Poor (尼希米記五章 Nehemiah 5)

January 30th - 尼希米記: 敵黨陰謀 The Adversary (尼希米記六章 Nehemiah 6)

### **Resources:**

[Sermon Video](#) (Pastor Tian)

[Sermon Slides](#) (Pastor Tian)

[Sermon Video](#) (Dr. Minger)

[Overview: Ezra-Nehemiah \(Bible Project\)](#) [English]

[Overview: Ezra-Nehemiah \(Bible Project\)](#) [Mandarin]

\* If your group hasn't watched the overview video yet, please do so. \*

### **Discussion Questions** (Pastor William R. Horne):

(1) Read Nehemiah 6 together. What observations do you make, and what stands out to you? How would you summarize the passage?

(2) Re-read Nehemiah 6:15. The great wall rebuilding project has finally been completed. The completion of the wall stood as a symbol of the journey of God's faithfulness to his people through history. In light of the Lunar New Year season, reflect on the journey of the last year together and how God has shown his faithfulness throughout. Share God's faithful seen throughout your life and the life of those who have gone before you.

- (3) Nehemiah remained steady and endured over the long haul to rebuild the walls. What does it look like for us to walk in a “long obedience” to God? What challenges do we face to walk with a “long obedience in the same direction”? (“long obedience” speaks to endurance on the journey to follow after Jesus.)
- (4) Read 1 Peter 2:4-6. What does it mean to you that we are “living stones” built up together with Christ as our cornerstone?
- (5) Read Psalm 126 together. The Lord has done great things! What are some of the great things we have seen the Lord do that we should rejoice in entering this new year? Spend extra time this week to rejoice together, celebrate what God has done, and pray prayers of thanksgiving with one another.

**Discussion Questions** (Pastor Tian):

1. 通过6：2-4，5-9和10-14节，仇敌分别用什么方式和计谋攻击尼希米？最后，尼希米是如何应对这些攻击的？这对我们有什么提醒？Based on Nehemiah 6:2-4, 6:5-9, and 6:10-14, what methods and schemes did Nehemiah’s enemies use to attack him? How did Nehemiah respond to these attacks in the end? What can we learn from these passages?
2. 相对于2章和4章，6章主要记载仇敌对尼希米，属灵领袖的攻击。如果神家属灵领袖软弱/跌倒/失败了，会对教会有何影响？今天你将计划如何为教会的牧者祷告，成为他/她属灵的支持和帮助？Relative to Nehemiah 2 and 4, Nehemiah 6 described how the enemies attacked Nehemiah, the spiritual leader. If the spiritual leader of the House of God fell behind/fell/failed, what effect would this have on the church? How do you plan to pray for the pastor of the church and become his or her spiritual support and help?

**Important Notes** (Pastor William R. Horne):

Notes on Q1: As you read through this chapter, make sure you recall the context from both the [Monthly Theme](#) section and the [Bible Project video](#). Context is key to understanding the movements of the story.

Notes on Q3: Our culture and society are obsessed with instant gratification and quick fixes, but the journey of walking with God is a long journey that calls for endurance - continuing the trek to look more like Jesus each day. “We are called to be pilgrims whose heart is set on the Lord himself. We are called to be pilgrims who walk in a long obedience in the same direction.” We are pilgrims on a journey to look more like Jesus. Each day we must strive to move closer and closer to God, lest we lose our way and like Israel, who walked in long disobedience - being shaped by the narrative of the world.

Here is the book by Eugene Peterson that Dr. Minger referred to - [A Long Obedience in the Same Direction](#)

Notes on Q4: We are being built together as a spiritual house with King Jesus as our strength and foundation. The Church of Jesus Christ is called to be a unified spiritual house being built up with us as living stones. When we know that this journey is done together in community with Jesus as our anchor, we are empowered to walk in that “long obedience,” faithful to King Jesus

throughout the journey of life. May we renew that focus, commitment, and communal unity in this new year - the Year of the Tiger. Let's keep our eyes on the promise of God to bring about a New Heaven and New Earth where all things will be made right. When King Jesus returns and the "New Jerusalem" arrives, may we be found already in its walls!