

STAY CONNECTED!

Looking for a Life Group or just want to keep up to date with the latest on Every Nation Brisbane's events or podcasts?

Download the free app and stay connected.
Available on the *Apple App Store* and *Google Play*.



EVERY NATION
BRISBANE

© 2022 by EVERY NATION BRISBANE®

All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.

www.enbrisbane.org



PRAYER

Our Father, strengthen us to act like Nehemiah of old and stand against the pressures of our day. Help us to be men and women who visibly live according to what we profess. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

-Ray Stedman, *Don't Back Down, Build Up*

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Name someone that you know personally who has built a life that has been a shining example to you. What is it about their example that makes them special?

NOTES

WORD

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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, ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."

²¹ So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out. ²² 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." ²³ 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.

NEHEMIAH 4:15-23

"Because they were believers, they had a power at work in their lives that their enemies knew nothing about. They had invisible resources they could count on in times of danger. The great and awesome God who was with them would stand with them in their peril. When they remembered this, they became reassured and renewed in courage. The enemy saw that they could achieve nothing with their attacks. God had frustrated their plottings by Nehemiah's simple reminder that God was with his people and would fight for them.

He now combines the work with the war. Each man goes to work with an instrument in one hand for labor and a sword in the other for battle. Thus, he is ready for either. Charles Spurgeon, the great English preacher of the last century, published a newspaper in his church called: The Sword and the Trowel. The name was clearly derived from Nehemiah. Spurgeon said that Christians should always be building the kingdom of God, but be ready for battle at any time.

-Ray Stedman, *Don't Back Down, Build Up.*

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = none at all; 10 = extreme), how would you rate your capacity to fight against wrong and injustice? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Do you know people who will stand guard for you when you are weak? If so, who are they?
3. Whether it's something you are working on or working towards, what is the most important thing you are building in your life right now? Is it worth fighting for?
4. If you are not yet a follower of God our Father, would you be willing to acknowledge him as your God, and enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life as your Father who loves you? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER