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## PRAYER

Our Father, you are our tower of strength and the lifter of our head. Thank you for placing us in this community to represent you and point people to you. Help us as we build deep relationally with the people around us as we all journey towards Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## WARM UP (OPTIONAL)

Can you remember building something from scratch, whether it was a piece of furniture, a toy, a bike, or something that needed assembling? What did you learn from building it? Did you read the instructions?

## NOTES

## WORD

<sup>1</sup> Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" <sup>3</sup> Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!" <sup>4</sup> Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives.

<sup>5</sup> Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.

<sup>6</sup> So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

<sup>7</sup> But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. <sup>8</sup> And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. <sup>9</sup> And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

<sup>10</sup> In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." <sup>11</sup> And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work." <sup>12</sup> At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us." <sup>13</sup> So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. <sup>14</sup> And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

[NEHEMIAH 4:1-14](#)

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

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

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = never; 10 = always), how would you rate your tendency to respond first in prayer in challenging situations? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. What are some things that can cause you to be discouraged or fearful from building what God is calling you to build?
3. How do you think God's Word would have you respond in those situations above? What would be some key scriptures that could encourage you in those moments? Write them down.
4. God builds community through people, which in turn, can also become a relational-building project. Can you identify people whom you are relationally building with? Who are they and how do you see them building with you and how do you see yourself building with them?
5. If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, would you be willing to acknowledge him as your God, enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life, and as the God 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