



Nehemiah – building walls, awakening hope

THE SERIES AT A GLANCE

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 7 days of 10–15 minutes

 Learning from Nehemiah how faith and responsibility belong together

 Preparation: 10 min

 **How to use the series:** One devotion a day – ideal for a camp week, a holiday club or seven meetings. At the start, briefly recall the day before.

1 Part 1: First weep, then pray

Bible: Nehemiah 1:1–4

Nehemiah works at the court of the Persian king. He hears that Jerusalem lies in ruins and the people there are in despair. He sits down, weeps, fasts and prays for days. Before he acts, he lets himself be moved. Good leadership does not start with frantic activity but with real compassion.

 **Question:** What is not leaving you cold right now?

 **Prayer:** *God, soften my heart for what moves you. Help me not to look away. Amen.*



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2 Part 2: A quick prayer and a bold request

Bible: Nehemiah 2:1–5

The king notices that Nehemiah is sad and asks: "What is it you want?" A risky moment. Nehemiah writes: "Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king ..." A short arrow prayer – then he boldly asks for leave and building materials. Faith and good preparation are not opposites.

💬 **Question:** Which request do you not yet dare to voice?

🙏 **Prayer:** *God, give me courage at decisive moments – and remind me to pray to you briefly. Amen.*

3 Part 3: Inspecting the ruins at night

Bible: Nehemiah 2:11–18

In Jerusalem Nehemiah rides secretly around the ruined wall at night and looks at everything carefully. Only then does he call the people together: "You see the trouble we are in. Come, let us rebuild the wall!" An honest assessment and a clear vision belong together. The people reply: "Let us start rebuilding!"

💬 **Question:** Where does your group need an honest look at the situation?

🙏 **Prayer:** *God, give me courage to look honestly, and hope that something new can grow. Amen.*

4 Part 4: Everyone builds a section

Bible: Nehemiah 3:1–12

Chapter 3 is a long list of names: priests, goldsmiths, merchants, rulers – and the daughters of Shallum build too. Everyone takes on a section of wall, often right in front of their own house. No name is too small to be mentioned. Big projects succeed when many people play their part.

💬 **Question:** Which "section of wall" is yours right now?

🙏 **Prayer:** *God, thank you that everyone is needed. Show me my part and help me to build faithfully. Amen.*



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5 Part 5: Justice within the team

Bible: Nehemiah 5:1–11

In the middle of the building work, poor families complain: wealthy people from their own nation are exploiting their need. Nehemiah becomes angry, confronts those responsible and makes sure debts are cancelled. He himself gives up privileges he is entitled to. A project is worth nothing if people are trampled on along the way.

 **Question:** Where do you notice injustice around you – even in small ways?

 **Prayer:** *God, make me alert to injustice around me and brave enough to do something about it. Amen.*

6 Part 6: I cannot come down

Bible: Nehemiah 6:1–9, 15

Opponents try to lure Nehemiah out of the city and intimidate him. He replies: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down." He does not let himself be distracted and prays: "Strengthen my hands!" After 52 days the wall is finished. Focus means knowing what you have said yes to – and therefore what you say no to.

 **Question:** What is distracting you right now from what really matters?

 **Prayer:** *God, strengthen my hands. Help me to stay with what you have called me to. Amen.*

7 Part 7: The joy of the Lord is your strength

Bible: Nehemiah 8:9–12

When the wall is finished, Ezra reads God's word to the people. Many weep because they realise how far they had drifted from God. But Nehemiah says: "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Then they celebrate, eat together and send food to those who have nothing. At the end there is a feast.

 **Question:** What are you taking away from this week with Nehemiah?

 **Prayer:** *Lord, your joy is my strength. Thank you for everything we have built together. Amen.*



For leaders

- Leave room for doubts and critical questions – an honest conversation matters more than a quick answer.
- As a leader, feel free to share a personal experience.