

Victoria Fellowship Church

International & Interdenominational

Bible Study Worksheet – May 3, 2020

Main Text: Nehemiah 3:1- 32

Theme: Nehemiah: A Vessel of Restoration **Topic:** Rebuilding the Wall

Key verse: 1 Corinthians 3:14 – *'If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward' (NKJV).*

INTRODUCTION: After carefully inspecting and assessing the work to be done, Nehemiah mobilized the people to action with these words: *"You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace."* (Nehemiah 2:17). He also told them about the favors he has from God and from the king. With these words, the people responded, *"Let us start rebuilding."* (Nehemiah 2:18b). And straight away, the people went to work. The priests, led by Eliashib, the chief priest, set the ball rolling, rebuilding and dedicating one of the gates and two of the towers (Nehemiah 3:1- 2).

1. (a) What can we learn from the example of the high priest and his fellow priests? (b) How important is it to the entire project that the priests dedicated the work?

The people worked side by side, each individual or family or group focusing on a section (small or large). Some made repairs around their house or away from it; even repairing other people's walls. Some rebuilt, while others repaired. Some like Baruch (Nehemiah 3:20) worked diligently. There were the Tekoites and the priests, who finished one section and went on to another section (Nehemiah 3:27,28). Some rebuilt gates but no mention was made of them installing the bolts and bars (Nehemiah 3:1, 3, 6). Nevertheless, section by section, the walls, the gates and towers went up. And in just 52 days, the restoration of the age-old ruins was completed! (Nehemiah 6:15).

2. (a) Let participants evaluate the way Nehemiah and his people went about this rebuilding project. What possible lessons can we learn from their organization and approach? (b) Nehemiah 3:20 mentioned Baruch as the one who repaired the wall around Eliashib's house. How does this portray Eliashib, especially when we consider 1 Timothy 3:4-5? (c) The refusal of the Tekoite nobles to help was given only a brief mention (Nehemiah 3:5). What can we learn from this as we work with others to accomplish the work of God in our time?

Interestingly, the Bible details the names of those who worked on the project – what and where each worked. They came from a variety of professions and backgrounds - the high priest, regular priests and their families, goldsmiths, merchants, and mayors of districts, ordinary folk, including women, were listed as having participated in the reconstruction of the city walls. Similarly, details of how they accomplished their tasks were recorded. Even the Tekoite nobles who refused to participate was noted. Of note, also, is the fact that all built on the existing foundation. The walls and gates had been burnt or knocked down, but the foundation remained.

3. Let participants read 1 Corinthians 3:10-14. (a) How should the knowledge that Christ is the only foundation on which any of us can attempt to build influence how we go about our involvement in the Church? (b) What is the significance to you that there is a detailed record of each person's work? (c) Homes, businesses, churches, schools may need to be rebuilt, post COVID-19. What can we learn from this study as we consider ministry opportunities within and outside our homes and Church?

Prayer: *Father, please point out those areas that need to be worked on in our lives that we may fulfil your purpose for us in Christ Jesus Amen.*