When God Works ... He stirs the hearts of men.

3 “They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”

4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.”

Nehemiah 1:3-4

Exodus chapters 35-40

When God Works ... there will be opposition

1 When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?"

2 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building—if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!"

Nehemiah 4:1-3

5 The L ORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Genesis 6:5

Exodus chapters 7-11

When God Works ... His people will be moved to action.

6 So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their hearts.

Nehemiah 4:6

32 After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Genesis 5:32

6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth.

Genesis 7:6

1 In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites had come out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the L ORD.

1 Kings 6:1

38 In the eleventh year in the month of Bul, the eighth month, the temple was finished in all its details according to its specifications. He had spent seven years building it.

1 Kings 6:38
Week 14 “If You Build It, They Will Come”
Personal Study and Small Group Questions July 12th, 2009

Heart

1. How do you feel when facing what seems to be an impossible task?

A gifted leader can motivate others, but a job usually gets done because of prayer and unity among believers. Usually the natural progression in completing a project is: (1) prayer, (2) vision, (3) strategy, (4) developing unity among the members and (5) doing the work.

2. How have you seen this progression at work in our church?

3. How has cooperation played a significant part in your church or fellowship group's success in ministry?

Opposition

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me!” We usually hear children saying this. But when we want to oppose something because it is getting in our way, we adults have a slightly more sophisticated way of doing the same thing.

The enemies of Israel started out at the "sticks and stones" level, but they were soon into slander, intimidation and threatening with weapons. Our enemy the devil is always going to oppose the work of God. We need to expect and be able to fight opposition if we will do God's work.

4. When have you seen a person or a group crumble under the pressure of opposition to the ministry?

5. How can people's attitudes toward (awareness of) opposition affect the work God's called us to do?

6. Describe the new threats in Neh. 4:7-12 that are seeking to hinder the work of building the wall.

Action

7. In Neh. 4:13-20, how does Nehemiah handle these threats?

8. Does opposition make you want to quit a job, or does it challenge you to work harder to complete it? Explain.

9. In what ways have you seen our church find a creative solution to keep the work moving forward?

10. What is your role in the upcoming “action”?