

Discussion Guide For the Week of Nov. 25, 2018

Read Nehemiah 4:1-18; Matthew 5:43-46; John 9:6-7

- How did Nehemiah respond when he was mocked (see Nehemiah 4:1-4)? What do you think of his prayer (Neh. 4:4-5)? Is it appropriate to pray that way? Why or why not? How would this prayer “jive” with what Jesus teaches in Matthew 5:43-46?
- Nehemiah prayed some more in Neh. 4:9, what was he praying for? What did he do after he prayed? See Neh. 4:9, 13, 16-18. If Nehemiah truly trusted God to protect them, was it necessary for him to provide “armed guards?” Was Nehemiah being wise, or did he lack of faith?
- We concluded from last week’s Bible lesson that we should take our worries / problems to God and trust him to take care of them. Pastor Dan used the illustration of “relaxing” while God takes care of problems. But this is a different message: take care of problems yourself. Which is right? Should we take care of our own problems or trust God? Or is it a combination of both?
- Pastor Dan used John 9:6-7 to illustrate a “partnership” with God where we do what we can and then ask God to help. He also said there are times when we can’t do anything about our problems. In those times we should ask God to take care of the problems for us, and trust He will.
- Can you think of a time when you “partnered” with God to solve a problem? What about a time when God just took care of it for you? Which was harder for you? Why?
- Spend some time in prayer, thanking God for his help – whether he “partnered” with you or whether He just took care of it for you.