

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Standing Strong

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: The Killer D's

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Memory Verse: Nehemiah 9:10 NIV

You sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his officials and all the people of his land, for you knew how arrogantly the Egyptians treated them. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day.

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word to lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: The enemy uses killer D's to hinder the work of God and trip you up.

Read Nehemiah 6

1. Nehemiah recognized that the invitation to meet in Ono was a distraction from the work God had called him to do (v 2). What are some common distractions that pull us away from God's calling in our lives today? How can identifying our distractions help us overcome them? What is one thing you can do to help you stay more focused in the coming week?
2. Sanballat and his conspirators make numerous attempts to derail the work. What does the persistence of Nehemiah's enemies teach us about our enemy? Why is it important to remember that the enemy never stops opposing us? What does it look like for you to stay vigilant?
3. When responding to the distraction, Nehemiah says that he cannot leave because he is carrying on a great work (v 3) How can focusing on a great work keep us from distraction? What is the great work Christians are called to? How do you see



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yourself playing a part in this great work?

4. In an open letter, Sanballat tries to stir controversy and evoke the fear of man in Nehemiah by saying he is doing this so that he can elevate himself and rebel against the king (v 6-7) If someone was making up lies about your intentions and purposes for doing something good, how would you respond? What can we learn from Nehemiah's response (v 8-9)?
5. Nehemiah had exceptional discernment to understand the motives of those who were trying to do him harm. How do you think Nehemiah knew these things? How can we experience this level of maturity and relationship with God?
6. Shemaiah's suggestion that he flee into the temple (v 10) was not only cowardly but also against God's law, since Nehemiah was not a priest. His refusal to hide in the temple shows that he knows God's word. How does knowing the Bible protect us from being misled by distorted or half-truth messages? What are some practical ways to grow in our knowledge of Scripture so we can recognize when it is being misused?
7. Nehemiah faced a lot of opposition and attacks for living inside the will of God. How does this challenge the idea that being in God's will means things will be easy? When have you experienced hardship while doing something you believed God was leading you to do? How did that affect your faith?
8. Nehemiah's enemies ultimately recognized that the completion of the wall was God's doing (v 16). Where in your life do you long for God to work in such a way that others recognize His power? How can we live like Nehemiah, whether at home, work, or in other relationships, to bring glory to God rather than ourselves?

Reach out to anyone who couldn't participate with your Small Group and make a personal connection with them this coming week (call, text, email, or personal face-to-face conversation.) Let them know they were missed, and you look forward to seeing them next time.



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