



WEEK 5: PERSEVERANCE

VIDEO:

This video will introduce the concept of perseverance, tying into our DEPLOY series as well as setting the stage for the story from Nehemiah.

STORY:

Read the story of Nehemiah 4:1-25. Here is some background information to read before studying the text:

- When the building started going well, Nehemiah and his workers faced increased opposition. Sanballat, the governor of Samaria, publicly insulted the work, saying an animal as small as a fox could destroy the work the Jews had done.
- Instead of trading barbs with Sanballat, Nehemiah prayed about the situation. He asked that God would deal with them for their insults. The work continued, and the wall reached the halfway point.
- From there on, Sanballat's threats became more pronounced. They threatened violence against the people of Israel. As a result of these threats – and the tiring work – the people became discouraged.
- In response to this, Nehemiah outfitted his workforce with weapons to defend themselves. He put up guards to protect those who were working hard at the rebuilding. He kept the work going by ensuring the safety of those involved in it.

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of opposition did Nehemiah face on his mission? What kind of opposition might we face on ours? Why?
2. How did Nehemiah respond to his opposition? How did he persevere? What lessons does this hold for us?
3. Read Nehemiah 4:14. How did Nehemiah motivate the crowds to persevere? How can this same rallying cry guide us?

Close with prayer. Spend some time asking group members about some of their current struggles. Pray for perseverance and strength in the face of today's obstacles, as well as those yet to come in the future.



Notes

