

## Leadership

### Small Group Questions: Using Your Influence to Impact Your World

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#### Read

Nehemiah 4 and 6

#### Reflect

Nehemiah receives a vision from God to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem. Surprisingly, he also receives permission and support from King Xerxes to whom he is bound in slavery. But as the work begins, Nehemiah faces opposition from two local governors who set out to kill not only his project, but Nehemiah, himself. Why, when we take a step of faith, do we tend to face the most opposition?

Guest pastor, Ernest Smith discusses the lenses we need to look through to receive vision:

1. What is.
  - a. Consider the different roles you play in daily life. Take time to evaluate where you are right now.
2. What should be.
  - a. What vision has God given to you in your life? in your community? City? Neighborhood? A vision for your marriage and family...or for the culture in which you live? At school? At work?
3. We are difference makers.
  - a. What changes can you make right now? What next step can you take?
4. Our God is great and awesome.
  - a. Are you trusting God to lead you through opposition? Explain.

Leadership is using your influence to impact your world. When faced with opposition, we need to:

1. Return to prayer.
  - a. What opposition are you facing right now, and why do you think that is?
  - b. Who is your real enemy? Are you trying to defeat him on your own?
  - c. Do you go to God with your anger, fear, or depression? Why or why not?
2. Revise the plan.
  - a. How good are you with adjusting to changing circumstances? Explain.
  - b. How did Nehemiah revise his plan?
3. Recast the vision.
  - a. Why is it so important for Nehemiah to remind the people of why they are rebuilding the wall?
  - b. What vision do you need to remind yourself of today?
  - c. Where are you putting your focus? On circumstances? How does reminding yourself of what Christ has done for you, help to refocus you?
4. Restart the work.
  - a. When have you put down the hammer and stopped working? What's at stake if you don't restart the work?

**Respond:** Where is God leading you? What is he saying to you? How can your small group support you?