



# Sunday School Study Plan for October 2024

with Mrs. Birdie Clifton and Deacon Ivy Foster

Four Weeks (October 6, 13, 20, and 27)

Topic: "Nehemiah, an Effective Leader in Times of Failure and Resistance"

## Week 1: Having the Faith to Plan and do the Work

1. Background reading: Nehemiah: Chapters 1-4
2. Who told Nehemiah that the survivors in Jerusalem were in great distress and reproach and why were they distressed?
3. What did Nehemiah do for many days?
4. How did Nehemiah show concern for the captives that returned?
5. What two people were deeply disturbed that Nehemiah had come to help the children of Israel and who were they?
6. How did prayer prepare Nehemiah to lead the people in these troubled times?

## Week 2: A Role Model for Injustices and Connections to God's Protections

Background Reading: Nehemiah: Chapters 5-6

1. How did the elders and leaders react after Nehemiah scolded them for buying and selling their own Jewish brethren, charging extra money on loans and having the poor give their sons and daughters over for slaves?
2. How did Nehemiah unify the people so that God's work on the wall continued?
3. Why did Nehemiah say he didn't take money or lay burdens on the people, like the former governors of Judah did?
4. How did Nehemiah want God to remember him and why?
5. What was Sanballat threatening to report to the king, unless Nehemiah agreed to meet with him?
6. What was the reaction of the people in the nations around Jerusalem when they heard the wall was finished?

## Week 3: Who are "Your People", Unity and Respect for God's Word

Background Reading: Nehemiah: Chapters 7-8

1. What did God place on Nehemiah's heart regarding the census of the returning exiles?
2. Name some of the reasons Nehemiah appointed Hanani and Hananiah to be in charge as it relates to the gates and the walls
3. What was the significant problem that occurred when no family record was found or genealogy path could be determined in Chapter 7:64-65?
4. What did the people ask Ezra the scribe to bring and read to them?
5. How long did Ezra read the law to the people on the first day of the seventh month?
6. Who, along with Ezra the priest and scribe, told the people not to cry, when they heard the words of the law and why?

## Week 4: Glorifying the Lord with Confession, Repentance and Obedience

Background Reading: Nehemiah: Chapters 9-10

1. What were 3 things the Israelite people did in the process of confessing their sins?
2. What did the children of Israel do, instead of going into the Promised Land the first time they had a chance to do so? Chapter 9:16-17
3. What did Nehemiah say they had done with God's law, after they were living in the land of Canaan for a while?
4. What did Nehemiah want God to remember and also want Him to think was important enough for attention?
5. What did all the Israelites and all who were able to understand the Law agree to do? Chapter 10:28-29

**2 Timothy 2:15**, KJV: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." **2 Timothy 2:15**, NASB: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

## WEEKLY HOMEWORK

1. READ TEXT FOR THE WEEK
2. USE A STUDY APPROACH TO RE-READ TEXT FOR PERSONAL AND BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS
  - A. CONSIDER 3 INSIGHTS, 2 SIGNIFICANT VERSES, AND ONE KEY WORD FOR DISCUSSION
  - B. USE BIBLICAL COMMENTARIES ON TEXT TO GIVE CONTEXT OR BACKGROUND
  - C. REVIEW VARIED TRANSLATIONS TO COMPARE MEANINGS
3. CONNECT LESSONS TO SERMONS FROM PAST DECADES AND LAST SEVERAL MONTHS