

greatly discouraged. Through this chapter, we see how Nehemiah led his people through the difficult times.

In the same way, there are times when we experience difficulties and discouragements when we want to walk in God's will. We cannot let the Enemy come and steal, kill and destroy. We are to come to God as our own first response, to look and encourage each other in the stormy season. Let us not lose sight in rebuilding the church and God's kingdom.

Pastor Lionel shared 4 pointers:

1. **Look up (and seek God for help, strength and wisdom)** - Nehemiah sought the Lord in difficult situations and prayed to Him after Sanballat and Tobiah jeered at them. In the same way, let us look to the Lord and find courage in Him (vv 4, 9).
2. **Look forward** - Nehemiah comforted the people (v 14). Nehemiah reminded them of the goodness of God and the vision that they were rebuilding their homes and their nation. Let us press on and look forward - when we build our inner lives, cells and church, we are building the kingdom of God.
3. **Look Out** - to be alert and aware of our enemy and take him seriously. Nehemiah took the threats seriously and organised his team into two groups - one to build the wall and the other to stay guard. He put other arrangements in place so that they remained on guard (vs 16-18).
4. **Look After** - Nehemiah knew that in order for the people to thrive, everyone had to look out for each other and to take their place at the wall. He later released the slaves free and got the rich to share their resources with the poor. The people felt a sense of belonging. In the same way, let us look out for our fellow brothers and sisters especially those with struggles and shower them with practical acts of kindness.

Discussion Questions

1. **In Nehemiah 4, it writes about how Nehemiah and the Israelites overcame discouragement. What did they do and what are some lessons we can learn from them?**

Leaders' Notes

A recap question for members to look through the verses about how Nehemiah and the Israelites dealt with the discouragements they face. Nehemiah prayed and addressed the people. He also prepared the people to defend themselves and each other. Leaders may wish to refer to this for more information: <https://studyandobey.com/inductive-bible-study/nehemiah-studies/nehemiah4/>

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

Nehemiah prayed and gathered the people. He also prepared the people to defend themselves and each other in times of discouragement, opposition or fatigue. Let's share our own experiences.

2. **Share a time when you faced discouragement, opposition or fatigue when you wanted to do what pleases God or walk according to His purposes. How did you overcome it?**

Leaders' Notes

A relate question for members to share about how they overcame a difficult time. Leaders can get members to share how or what happened to them (e.g. was it similar to what Ps Lionel shared about the fatigue the Israelites experienced?), what encouraged and kept them going, and the lesson they learnt through that journey.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

We learn and grow through difficult times. During the process, our faith is challenged and strengthened as we go through it. We learn lessons about God, others and ourselves during those times.

3. **Pastor Lionel shared about 4 pointers - Looking up, looking forward, looking out, and looking after. Share a point that you would like to start / continue doing. Share how it can be done during this COVID-19 season.**

Leaders' Notes

A response question for members. Leaders can also recap by getting the members to think of examples of how they can look up, look forward, look out and look after.

Look Up – Prayer / worship / devotion

Look Forward – To be reminded of God's great purpose and how we all play a part in it

Look Out – To identify the lies of the evil one, to wear the armour of God

Look After – Practical ways we can give and care for others

Also, encourage your members not to wait until after the COVID-19 season to put these 4 pointers into practice.

Closing

As we go through trying times, may we continue to remember Whose we are and that we belong in the family of God. Let us continue to walk and see with eyes of faith as we continue to seek Him and press on in His purposes.

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. COVID-19 Season

- Let us continue to pray for the COVID-19 season especially as we exit the Circuit Breaker in stages.
- Continue to pray for protection, providence and healing for our foreign workers during this season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** The Bible Reading Plan is available on our church website (www.riverlife.org.sg/brp). You can download this week's reading plan there.



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.
Scan this QR code on the right.

SCAN ME



2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account:
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0
Bank Code: 7171
Branch Code: 029



Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.