

- 7) When Nehemiah looked over the situation, he said, *“Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”* (v. 14). Who or what are you fighting for right now, and how does remembering the Lord — and remembering them — change the way you see the hard work in front of you?
- 8) After the threat was exposed, the people didn’t relax — they became more watchful. Half worked while half stood guard, the builders worked *“with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon,”* and a trumpeter stood ready so everyone could *“rush to wherever it is sounding.”* (vv. 16–20). What would it look like for you to set a guard over the progress God has already given you, so it isn’t lost?

READ: Galatians 6:1–10 (NLT)

- 9) Paul writes, *“Share each other’s burdens”* (v. 2) and *“whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith”* (v. 10). The message reminded us that we don’t need a hundred people to build with — just a handful — and asked, “Have you ever thought about the people who might need you?” Who are the handful of people you’re building with, and who might be needing you right now?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection Questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Ask God to show you where you feel tired, overwhelmed, or alone in the building right now. Bring it to Him honestly, then ask Him to let His joy become your strength for the next stretch of the wall.
- 2) Ask God: Who am I really fighting for? Sit quietly and let Him bring faces to mind — then ask Him who, in your church family, might be needing you this week.
- 3) Ask God to gently inspect your wall with you. Is there a small crack at your doorstep He wants you to address now, or someone He’s inviting you to ask to walk alongside you in accountability? Write down whatever He brings to mind.

Reimagine

The Blessing of God is Within Your Reach

Pastor Craig Sweeney | September 27, 2026

Thread: Reimagine, or the blessing may not come.

“At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm.” **Nehemiah 4:6 NLT**

They are halfway to finishing the repairs on their wall!

“But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall of Jerusalem were being repaired, they were furious. They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion. But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves. Then the people of Judah began to complain, ‘The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves.’ Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, ‘Before they know what’s happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work.’ The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, ‘They will come from all directions and attack us!’ So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows.”

Nehemiah 4:7-13 NLT

What does this look like?

“Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!’”

Nehemiah 4:14 NLT

Who and what are you fighting for?

- Set a _____ over the work. (V. 13)
- Continue to _____, assess and call out what’s true. (V. 14)
- Gathered everyone to _____ their fear to the faithful One. (V. 14)
- _____ the work, it’s bigger than just one person.
- Became more _____, not less.

“When our enemies heard that we knew of their plans and that God had frustrated them, we all returned to our work on the wall. But from then on, only half my men worked while the other half stood guard with spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. The leaders stationed themselves behind the people of Judah who were building the wall. The laborers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon. All the builders had a sword belted to their side. The trumpeter stayed with me to sound the alarm... During this time, none of us—not I, nor my relatives, nor my servants, nor the guards who were with me—ever took off our clothes. We carried our weapons with us at all times, even when we went for water.”

Nehemiah 4:15-18,23 NLT

What does this look like?

Developing endurance

Change our mindsets.

Build a strong mind.

Build with others.

How to build a wall

STEP 1: Decide where to start.

STEP 2: Remove the rubble.

STEP 3: Stack your next stone until you're finished.

STEP 4: Inspect your wall regularly.

STEP 5: Fix the issue while its small and insignificant.

Challenge:

- Will I sit with God? To see, hear and believe what He does?
- Will I call for the inspection at my doorstep?
- Will I make a financial commitment to my part of the wall that is collectively the church.
- Will I reach for the obedience that brings about the hand of God?

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit Dougbrittonbooks.com/resource.

Reimagine.

Fall 2026 | Week 3

Message Date 9/27/2026

HOMEWORK

MY STORY



1. What's something you've tried to do one-handed — eat a burrito while driving, carry groceries while holding a toddler, balance coffee while opening a door — that went hilariously wrong?
2. Nehemiah's crew didn't change clothes for the entire build. What's the longest you've ever gone in the same outfit — a camping trip, a road trip, a new-baby fog, and are willing to admit it?

QUICK REVIEW



3. What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

READ: Nehemiah 4:7–23 (NLT)



4. Notice exactly when the opposition got loud: *“when... they heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall of Jerusalem were being repaired, they were furious”* (v. 7). Why do you think progress and healing so often stir up resistance, and have you ever experienced that in your own life?
5. Nehemiah's response to the threat was twofold: *“we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night”* (v. 9). He did what was within his control and trusted God with the rest. Which comes more naturally to you — praying and waiting, or working and guarding — and what might it look like to hold both together this week?
6. Right after the wall reached the halfway point, things got worse, not better. The workers were tired, the rubble felt endless, and they concluded, *“We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves”* (v. 10). Which of those three feelings — tired, overwhelmed, or alone — do you relate to most right now, and how does it help to know this is often what the middle of God's blessing feels like?