BRICK AFTER BRICK

Warning: this chapter can be categorized as one of the lackluster chapters in the Bible. Just like building a wall, brick after brick, chapter 3 of Nehemiah details the people involved, verse after verse. Even so, many principles of biblical leadership can be gleaned from this seemingly monotonous passage. Even before you scribe the passage, there are some preliminary lessons to be learned:

1. Persevere through the “boring” parts of the Bible.
   It may be that we are not ready for some particular grain of truth at some specific stage of our spiritual experience. But precious gems of truth await if we will patiently wade through and endure the reading.

2. Readers do not always have to get something out of the Bible. Sometimes these details are background information or a setup for another story. As with all relationships, one does not have to get something out of everything.

3. In the “me-centeredness” of our culture, we fail to realize that it’s not always about God squeezing into our narrative, but about us squeezing into His plan to save the world. Some parts of the Bible have seemingly obscure names and details, but they are recorded in the Bible, the inspired Word of God!

4. Though there is nothing special about each brick, an amazing structure emerges when one is done laying them down to build a wall. May we read this chapter with Nehemiah’s patience and diligence.
Write out Nehemiah 3 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Nehemiah 3:1–5. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline it, or mind map the chapter. Follow the graphic to visualize the city walls.
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Gobacktoyourscribedtextand
study the passage.

Circle repeated words/
phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that
areimportantandhavemeaning
to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/
phrases to other associated or
related words/phrases

Memorize your favorite verse.
Write it out multiple times to help
memorization.

What type of builder are you?
How does your work ethic
impact others?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/neh4-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/neh4-4
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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Prov. 22:29
1 Cor. 12:12–26
Gal. 3:28

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Nehemiah 3?

Review your memorized verse from Nehemiah 3.
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Meditate on Nehemiah 3 again and look for Jesus in the passage.

Based on John 5:39, what does the fact that Nehemiah 3 is part of Scripture reveal about Jesus?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/neh4-6
Review your memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

As you have studied this week, what personal applications have you been convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/neh4-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What are some tips to help read through the more difficult parts of Scripture?

Are you a Tekoite or a Tekoite noble?

Why do people seek recognition? Is it wrong to seek recognition? Is there a biblical way to do it?

How can our secular work interface with our spiritual work?

Is being organized a character trait or a learned skill? Why?

How can you tap into Nehemiah’s enthusiasm?

Why and how does God use organizations?

Are being organized and being controlling the same thing?

Is being disorganized a vice? Why?

How do you fit into the larger picture of what God is trying to do?