

HAPPY FAMILY BIBLE SEMINARS INTERNATIONAL
www.HappyFamilyBSI.com

Gordon & Waveney Martinborough

Seminar L1: Participant
TWELVE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SUCCESSFUL LEADERS

Attention

This seminar is useful for all areas of leadership in the home, on the job, in the church, in the world. Whether in the sacred or secular sphere, successful leaders are builders. Day by day, we carefully put in place vital building blocks in our personal lives, our families, and our organizations.

Our seminar is anchored in the Leadership skills of one of the most successful leaders in all of Scripture. His name is Nehemiah.

More than ninety years had passed since 42,360 Judean pathfinders had resettled in Jerusalem. During that time, under the leadership of Zerubbabel, the temple was completed and dedicated. And under Ezra, reforms were instituted
But one task defied the settlers—the rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls for defense

In 444BC, a new leader, Nehemiah, arose. And the job which had baffled the residents for decades was completed in just **52** days! How could that happen? Leadership! Let us examine twelve blocks of Nehemiah’s life and leadership—building blocks for successful leadership today

Block #1: Concern

1. What was Nehemiah’s reaction to the report of the plight of his countrymen?
“When I heard these words...I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days”
Nehemiah 1:4a.
2. Why should he bother? He was the king’s cupbearer! (Neh. 1:11b)
3. There are two types of leaders
 - a. The _____. “I have a Mission”
 - b. The _____. “I’m doing my job”
4. Beware! A leader should not become so consumed with the professional life that it damages personal life of _____ life.
5. But Mission should be taken seriously! True leaders do not just memorize the Mission Statement; they become the Mission Statement _____!

Block #2: Intercession

1. Nehemiah 1:4 tells us that this leader’s concern caused him to _____ and to _____.
2. Notice that he was praying both “day and night.” Nehemiah 1:6
3. Observe the progression of his prayer:
 - a. Adoration: Nehemiah 1:5

- b. Confession: Nehemiah 1:6
 - c. Intercession: Nehemiah 1:11
4. His petition was, “Grant me mercy in the sight of this man.” “This man” was Artaxerxes I, the king who
- a. Earlier issued to Ezra the third “command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem”
 - b. Then later gave permission to Judah’s enemies to make the construction “cease, that the city may not be built until the command is given by me.” Ezra 4:21.
- So the situation required earnest intercession!
5. Notice that for Nehemiah, Prayer was not just an Event. It was an _____!

Block #3: Opportunity

1. For four months, from Chislew (Neh. 1:1) to Nisan (Neh. 2:1), he waited for the right opportunity!
2. That opportunity appeared in Nehemiah 2:2-5.
3. Leaders should never miss the _____ of Opportunity! It might open only once!

Block #4: Strategy

1. While Nehemiah was praying and watching, he was planning—preparing a strategy!
2. His strategic plan – like ours – should include three vital elements
 - a. Time frame. Nehemiah 2:6
 - b. Resources – human and financial. Nehemiah 2:7 – 9.
 - c. Needs. Nehemiah 2:11 – 16. Upon arriving at Jerusalem, Nehemiah put in place this third element of his Strategic Plan.
3. An effective Strategic Plan matches _____ with _____ within a specific _____ to accomplish an identified Goal.
4. Does your organization have a detailed Strategy, for the accomplishment of its Mission?

Block #5: Salesmanship

1. One of the most challenging tasks of the leader is to sell the Strategy to the team or constituency.
2. This challenge can be minimized by _____ the Team in the creation of the Strategy. However, Nehemiah did not have that option. He was in the palace while his team was in Palestine
3. Notice the progression of his Salesmanship
 - a. Identifying with participants Nehemiah 2:17a
 - b. Appeal to their self esteem. Nehemiah 2:17b
 - c. Assurance of God’s providence Nehemiah 2:18a
 - d. News of the king’s gifts. Nehemiah 2:18b
5. People’s Response: “Let us arise and build!”
6. A leader is a salesperson, appealing to the mind. So, _____ the presentation especially the _____! “The appeal went straight to their hearts.” *PP* 638.

Block #6: Teamwork

1. When the people accepted the Strategy, something fantastic happened!
2. In Nehemiah chapter 3, we find the statement “Next to him/them” or “After him/them” mentioned 30 times! Whether it was the result of Nehemiah’s organization or the people’s initiative, this is _____!
3. The dozens of participants groups included:
 - a. High Priest & Priests. Nehemiah 3:1, 21
 - b. Goldsmiths. 3:8,31
 - c. Perfume makers. 3:8
 - d. Father and daughters. 3:12
 - e. District leaders. 3:14, 15
 - f. Levites. 3:17
 - g. Merchants. 3:32
4. This is the concept of Small Group Evangelism!
5. “So we built the wall...for the people had a _____ to work” Nehemiah 4:6. “Every man became a Nehemiah” *PP* 638.

Block #7: Balance

1. Rapid growth has an inherent challenge: the conservation of _____! Churches that experience big baptisms face, and often fail the challenge of _____.
2. But Nehemiah did not permit this to happen! When he learnt that his enemies were planning to break down what he had built up, he instituted an effective policy.
3. **Here’s our Group Activity. Read Nehemiah 4:13, 16-18**, then answer these questions:
 - a. What plan did Nehemiah put in place?
 - b. If he had asked you to design a poster, write a short slogan for his policy.
 - c. What steps could your church(es) take to implement this paradigm?
4. Here are possible slogans
 - a. We _____ while We _____!
 - b. Every _____ is a _____!
5. What an awesome paradigm for Church Growth! If instead of depending on high-powered evangelists, we _____ each member to build his/her part of the wall [evangelism], we would be empowering them to become _____ of that wall! [Conservation]!

Block #8: Integrity

1. In the midst of construction, there always is _____! The devil creates devices to divert us from the Mission! Some of his devices are external; others are internal. Chapter 5 describes the internal. What was it?
2. Social Injustice:
 - a. Families without food. 5:2
 - b. Houses, lands, and farms mortgaged to buy _____. 5:3
 - c. Loans made to pay taxes. 5:4
 - d. Children sold into _____ 5:5
3. Who were the perpetrators? Nehemiah 5:7 tells us they were the _____ and _____.

4. What was Nehemiah's reaction to these rich, powerful oppressors?
Nehemiah 5:6,11.
5. And what was their response? Nehemiah 5:12, 13
6. That's Integrity! What gave him such moral authority? His _____! See Nehemiah 5:14 – 18.
7. One of the greatest areas of need in the world and in the church today is Integrity in Leadership!
"The greatest want of the world is the want of men [and women]—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their _____ souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose _____ is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall"
Are you that kind of leader?

Block #9: Resoluteness

1. In addition to internal distraction, Nehemiah encountered external distraction. His enemies used four different tactics to divert him from his Mission. These are still in use today!
2. Devil's devices:
 - a. Ridicule. 4:1 - 3
 - b. _____. 6:2 – 4
 - c. Slander 6:5- 9
 - d. _____ 6:10 – 14
3. Nehemiah was resolute! Nothing or no one could distract him from his Mission!
4. This builder reminds us of the Master Builder who set His "face like a flint" (Isaiah 50:7) "He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem"
5. Are you vacillating or a resolute leader? Do you have a wishbone or a backbone?

Block #10: Roots

1. Effective leaders never ignore the historical roots of their organizations. Instead, they
 - a. Get _____ with them,
 - b. _____ them, and
 - c. _____ from them.
2. When the roots of the Israelite nation were laid at Sinai, seven annual feasts were instituted. And one of the most important of these was the Feast of Tabernacles
3. As Nehemiah partnered with Ezra in the reading of the Pentateuch (8:1, 9), these Jews rediscovered their roots!
 - a. Rediscovery! 8:14, 15
 - b. Celebration. 8:16
 - c. Rejoicing! 8:17b
 - d. Roots! 8:17a
4. What about your roots! Do you know them? Are you learning from them?
5. "We have nothing to fear for the future except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history" *Life Sketches, p. 196*

Block #11: Distinctive values

1. In our post-modern world of moral relativism, successful leaders need to maintain a value system—for themselves as well as for their organizations
2. After the review of Israel's checkered history and the confession of sin, Nehemiah led the nation into a formal recommitment: Commitment to their Spiritual Values!
3. Who were the participants?
 - a. The politicians 10:1
 - b. The Priests. 10: 8, 9
 - c. The People. 10:28
 - d. That's _____!
4. Notice the principal values in their commitment. They're the same as ours!
 - a. The Family. 10:30
 - b. The _____ 10:31
 - c. Tithe & Offerings 10: 37
 - d. The _____ 10:33

Block #12: Humble Gratitude

1. Finally
 - Mission accomplished
 - Dedication of City Wall
 - Thanksgiving ceremony
 - Glory to God!
2. As leaders, one of our temptations is to sing, "Glory for me!" instead of "Glory to God"
3. We are infected with "Luciferitis." "I", "I" "I". We may say it! We may act it! We may think it! Can God trust us with success?
4. Nehemiah gave the glory to God! The participants
 - Musicians 12:27
 - Priests & Levites 12:30
 - Leaders 12:31 – 36
 - Two Thanksgiving Choirs—led by Ezra & Nehemiah!
5. We can almost feel their excitement: "That day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off." Neh. 12:43

The Secret

1. Question: How did Nehemiah get the wisdom and strength to erect these building blocks—in his life and his leadership?
2. Here is the Answer: "The Lord God has given me the tongue of the learned that I should know how to speak....He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to hear as the learned." Isaiah 50:4
3. The Secret is spending time alone with your Teacher _____ day in _____!
4. And that's Nehemiah's testimony! "I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do" (Neh. 2:12). "Then my God put it in my heart to..." (Neh. 7:5).
5. Alone with God—Each day! _____ Him!
Alone with God—Each day! _____ to Him!

Alone with God—Each day! _____ on Him!

6. The promise is: “Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31.
7. The question is: Do you really wait? How often do you wait? How long do you wait? How precious is your wait?

My Commitment

1. Review the building blocks.
2. By the grace of God, I will put these building blocks in my life and in my leadership
3. I will use the Secret: I will spend time with God each day—in secret.
4. One day soon, the edifice we are building will be finished! And there will be another rejoicing! And the choirs of heaven will sing!
5. By the grace of God I will be there!
6. My prayer is

“I would be, dear savior, wholly Thine;
Teach me how, teach me how;
I would do Thy will, O Lord, not mine;
Help me, help me now

F.E. Belden