

Small Group and Personal Bible Study

Pastor Dennis Hadley

Memory Verse: Psalm 27:14

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Discovery Bible Study Lesson

1. Read and then write down the passage found in **Psalm 27:14**
2. Next, rewrite **Psalm 27:14** using your own words
3. What do you discover in this passage?
4. What does God want you to understand and obey in response to this passage?

Daily Bible Reading

- Day 1: Nehemiah 2
- Day 2: Nehemiah 3
- Day 3: John 4:34-38
- Day 4: John 5:17-20
- Day 5: Romans 12:4-8

Lesson: Doing God's Work God's Way

Nehemiah spent a month's fasting and praying as he waited for God's hand to move and reveal to him what he was to do.

1. Why do you think it is so hard for us to wait on God before we move into action?

Most of us are doing people. We want to do for God. We place our trust in our experience, our knowledge, our ability, and our initiative. We may look to what others have done and take the world's success and apply as God's plan for us. This is always a mistake. Ideas, things, programs do not work. Only God works!

It is important to understand that without God's hand in it we can do nothing. (*John 15:5 - I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing*)

Even Jesus was clear about dependence on God in doing His work. (*John 5:19 - Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."*)

We must remember that it is God's work not ours and He will use us to accomplish His purpose if we seek His way and His timing. (*John 4:34 - "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."*) And Paul reminds us God has planned to use us for a purpose He planned long before we were called (*Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*)

2. Using Nehemiah's example, how should we approach serving God?

Always start with waiting on the Lord. We pray and fast as led by the Lord. We wait to see and hear from Him. We plan as He leads us to and take action on the plan but always in followership of Christ and never ahead of Him. We expect miracles to happen and we engage others to join God in His work.

3. Nehemiah was surrounded by people when He obeyed the leading from God; some unbelievers, some critics, and some willing servants. Jesus' experience was the same and yet both of them saw God's hand move and lead them and use them in mighty ways. How can experiencing each of these types of people in your life be a confirmation for you that God is at work?

First, we should expect that when we do God's work we will see God work in miraculous ways like He did in the midst of Nehemiah (and Jesus) leading even unbelievers to do things that open the door to God's work. God will use whoever He chooses to fulfill His purpose.

Second, we should expect opposition and it often comes in the way of critics. Satan is never happy when we respond to God's leading and we should expect opposition. Here is a thought; if no opposition exists then perhaps we are missing the point of where God is moving and working.

Finally, we should expect that when God is in it, He will bring forth the workers for the harvest field. He will supply for every need in an amazing and divine way. He will bring people into our lives that we perhaps never met before but like us they are called in the same way and fill a specific need. Or maybe suddenly we discover how God has prepared someone we know for a purpose that before this we (or they) never imagined they would be led to pursue.

4. What does Romans 12:4-8 teach us about the make-up of the body of Christ.

Romans 12:4-8 teaches us that the body of Christ is made up of many parts and each had a function that is essential to the body. And each part of the body has a responsibility to use the gifts to the benefit of the Body and to the glory of God. In fact, Romans says we belong to one another (verse 5) so we do not have the right to keep to ourselves. We must serve the body as God has gifted and called us to do.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 to get even more insight into the working and unity of the Body of Christ.