

Small Group and Personal Bible Study

Pastor Dennis Hadley

Memory Verse: Romans 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Discovery Bible Study Lesson

1. Read and then write down the passage found in **Romans 12:12**
2. Next, rewrite **Romans 12:12** 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 9
- Day 2: Nehemiah 10
- Day 3: Nehemiah 11
- Day 4: Nehemiah 12
- Day 5: Nehemiah 13

Lesson: Remaining Faithful

1. God wants us to remain faithful to Him and His Word. How did Nehemiah demonstrate his faithfulness to God?

Nehemiah demonstrated faith by conforming to what God had said. He was led to rebuild the wall and he followed through faithfully. In chapter 6 we see that when he was challenged day after day he remained faithful to the call and refused to be diverted by those who would oppose. He trusted God above man. When he grew weak he turned to God in faith. When Shemaiah tried to trick him into sinning against God by hiding in the temple out of fear. Had he done this, he would not have been placing his trust in God alone for protection and he also would have been violating God's law for the entering of the Temple Sanctuary. Nehemiah chose the better path and that was to trust God and continue the work he had been given in faithfulness.

2. Read Romans 12:9-12. What does this passage teach you about what God wants from our lives?

God wants me to love sincerely. My love should never be in hypocrisy but real and personal. His word tells me to cling to what is good and hate evil. That is how Nehemiah demonstrated his faith and I should do the same. My love will create a devotion to others. Being devoted means I really care and really help in every way I can. This means that when someone is in need I don't just say, "I will pray for you" but I really, really pray for them and along with them. And I not only pray I engage my life to help them however I may. When I serve the Lord I do it because of His tremendous love sacrifice for me. Paul says I should "be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." This reminds me that I can always find joy when my eyes are in the right direction. Not looking at my troubles or those who seek to cause me trouble but rather looking at the promise and the person who holds my life in His precious hands. When I look to Jesus in joyful hope then I can be patient in affliction. I know God is in control and cares more about me than I could ever imagine. And I know he loves me and calls me to pray in faith. Meaning I know He hears me and answers my prayers just like Nehemiah knew.

3. In light of this passage, how can you remain faithful to God?

Let people in your group share how they can remain faithful to God.

4. What is the hardest part of remaining faithful for you when you feel like you are begin attacked?

For many of us we tend to fight back. Or else we tend to run from trouble. Both of these could be seen as the opposite of remaining faithful. God gives us a calling, we are attacked and so we quit. Or, we lose focus on the calling in the first place and our mission is diverted because we spend all of our time and energy trying to prove ourselves right and win the fight. I think finding peace with God in all circumstances and trusting Him completely is the hardest part of remaining faithful.