

- 1. In his message, Pastor Rick challenged us to choose one spiritual area in our lives to work on over the summer. Share what area you chose to work on. Further challenge—every week at small group have someone in your group ask you how you did in the past week in this area.
- 2. Nehemiah had opposition to rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. It seems that whenever you set goals to achieve something great, there are always people who will criticize and attack you. Why do you think that is?
 Answer Many times people who are doing nothing are the ones who criticize and attack.

Answer – Many times people who are doing nothing are the ones who criticize and attack the most because your determination is a rebuke to their laziness or disobedience. Your dedication becomes a rebuke to them, so they want to pull you back down to their level.

- 3. Read Nehemiah 6:6-8. What was Sanballat saying about Nehemiah and what he was doing that was not true? Have you ever had someone speak misinformation and lies about you? How did it make you feel? Why do you think people like to do this? Read Proverbs 26:18-26. What are the characteristics of people who harm others purposely by what they say?
- 4. In Nehemiah 6:3 Nehemiah's response to Sanballat was "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down". What was this demonstrating about Nehemiah and his attitude about what he was doing in rebuilding the wall? How does this apply to us and the area we have determined to work on over the summer? What obstacles do you think you might face that would prevent you from following through on your goal? What can you do now to ensure that you will not be diverted from accomplishing this goal?