



Plus One Just Say No

#npplusone

Week 4
4 of 5

August 22, 2021

Bottom Line: Not everything that gets your attention deserves your attention.

Icebreaker: What's the most adventurous thing you have ever done? What's the most adventurous thing you'd like to do?

Key Verse: *I am doing a great work, and I can't come down.* Nehemiah 6:3 NCV

Nehemiah was heartbroken for his people and his Jerusalem home. He got the king's permission to go back. Perhaps God could use him to lead the people to rebuild the wall. It was slow, but eventually they started to make progress. But as soon as the wall was going up, enemies came and tried to distract the people from their important work. The same is true for us. The moment you start creating movement on behalf of the things that matter to God, your spiritual enemy will show up. If your enemy can't destroy you, he will distract you. He will do whatever he can to take your eyes off your mission, your calling, your purpose, and distract you from God's will. Regardless of the nature of your vision, if you are not careful you will get distracted. The daily grind of life is hard on vision. It is easy to lose sight of the main thing; to sacrifice the best for the sake of the good. Nehemiah's enemies knew that if they could distract the leader, they could derail the mission. Their plan was to distract him, pull him off the project, get him away from his supporters, and then kill him. Nehemiah didn't understand everything. He didn't have all the answers, but he did know he was called to do a great work. Every time they came back to try and distract him, he gave the same answer: "No. Not coming down." Our dangerous distractions can come in the form of **opportunities**. To accomplish the great things, we have to learn to say NO to some good things. Don't come down. You are accomplishing something great. Don't get distracted from your vision of what could be and should be. Allow God to shape your character during this time. Guard your integrity at all costs. Then there's **criticism**. Sanballat came with a letter and accusation that Nehemiah's motives weren't pure. Getting caught up in defending ourselves is one of the most successful distractions. There is a general distrust of those who are trying to do anything new, especially if you claim to be doing it for a reason other than personal gain. Don't be distracted. Take your frustrations and anger to the One who got you into this thing to begin with. Time will tell who is right. Pour out your frustrations to your Father and keep working. The best way to silence your critics is to complete the vision. **Fear** will distract. They were trying to destroy Nehemiah. But Nehemiah saw through the eyes of what good will happen instead of what bad might happen. Worse than failure is living with the regret of never having stepped out in faith to pursue your vision. Don't be afraid. Remember the Lord, and fight!

THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of Sunday's message to you?

The book of Nehemiah only has 13 chapters, but we see Nehemiah go to earnest, not casual, prayer 12 times. What does that say to you?

The daily grind is hard on vision. How so?

Giving up the vision for the sake of other good opportunities is so normal and average. How have you seen it happen?

Have you ever been in the position where you find yourself busier than ever, yet making less progress on the thing that really matters? How do you begin to sort that out and make a change?

When you don't take good opportunities because they will distract you from God's vision, you disappoint and anger people. How can you manage that?

Criticism of your motives is generally the hardest to take. Discuss. Why is it so easy to get defensive and fire back?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Nothing silences critics like a vision that comes through to completion. How can you remind yourself of that when you are in the fire?

Often it's not just the vision your critics don't like. Nehemiah's critics made it personal. They hated the vision and they hated him. They took it to a personal level, which makes it extremely hard to refuse the bait. What is your go-to when things get personal? Does it help or hurt you?

Nehemiah faced fear, and he said, "Should someone in my position run from danger?" How do you think he answered himself? What's YOUR position? How can your position provide courage to not run?

Fear is a form of focus. Discuss. What's your battle strategy?

Don't be afraid of them, Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight... Who is your "them"? What do you need to remember about God? Articulate the vision for which you are fighting. Pray together.

NEXT STEPS

1. Identify and articulate your vision.
2. Identify the distractions you are facing.
3. Define your battle strategy.
4. Join the 52-day effort.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Not everything that gets your attention deserves your attention.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: 1 Thessalonians 5:24

Tuesday: 2 Timothy 1:7

Wednesday: Philippians 1:6

Thursday: Nehemiah 6:11

Friday: Nehemiah 4:14

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)