

HILLSIDE STUDENTS

Nehemiah | Week 3

CONNECT

 Set out snacks! Add new students to the groups app! Take Attendance!

 Play **Grandma's Footsteps!** One player serves as “grandma” and stands with their back turned away from the group. Everyone else spreads out and attempts to creep up slowly and tap grandma on the shoulder. However, grandma can turn around at any moment to look to see who is coming closer. No one can move while grandma is looking. If grandma sees anyone moving, grandma can point at the person, and they must move to the side until the round is over. If anyone gets close enough to tap grandma, the round is over, and that person becomes the new grandma.

WATCH

 **Set up Discussion:** Have you ever faced a time when things got tough, and giving up seemed like the easiest option? Regardless of who you are, the answer is probably yes. But how should we react when things get hard? Where does our help come from? Let's look at this story to see how the people of God reacted in the face of adversity.

 **Pre-Video Question:** Have your group answer one or both questions below!

- If you could have any inanimate object as a sidekick, what would it be?
- What is your favorite form of water (ice, snow, clouds, ocean, bottled, sparkling, etc.)?

Split up into smaller groups and navigate the discussion below:

- Based off the video, have one or two people define the idea of “grit”.
- **Read Nehemiah 4:13-16.** How do you see Nehemiah and the people building the wall show grit in this story?
What are some ways we can follow Nehemiah's example of grit?
- **Read Galatians 6:9.** What encouragement does Paul give us in this passage?
- **Read John 15:14-15.** What (or who) does Jesus tell us our source of strength is?
- Why is it important for us to be rooted in Him?
- **Read 2 Timothy 4:5-8.** Have a student summarize this passage in their own words. How can this encourage you to practice grit this week?

READ + DISCUSS

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God understands that we are weak. He understands that we are prone to give up, but God is faithful to make us strong in Him. Through His power, we are made strong. We can persevere and withstand challenges because of God's faithfulness, and we call this resilience grit.

When we are people of grit, our words and character reflect a deep trust in God. This means our actions aren't driven by our own strength, but by our understanding of who God is and the purpose He has called us to.

Psalm 121:1-2 says, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Because we are jars of clay – broken vessels displaying God's power in our weakness – having grit in trials is a display of the gospel to those around us. When we are rooted in Christ, His strength shines through us into the world.

Leaders, share times when you have experienced God's power in your weakness. How has He made you strong? Encourage students to continue to fight the good fight together in community, and to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Nehemiah 4:13-16 ¹³ *Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.* ¹⁴ *After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."* ¹⁵ *When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.* ¹⁶ *From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah..."*

Galatians 6:9 *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

John 15:14-15 ¹⁴ *You are my friends if you do what I command.* ¹⁵ *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."*

2 Timothy 4:5-8 ⁵ *But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.* ⁶ *For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near.* ⁷ *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* ⁸ *Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."*