

## PREACHING SERIES – NEHEMIAH – DEFENDING THE FAITH

Date	Special Sunday	Minister/Preacher	Theme	Purpose
19-Apr-20		Richard Renouf	Nehemiah (1) (Sad News)	Defending the faith
26-Apr-20		Richard Renouf	Nehemiah (2) (Return)	Defending the faith
03-May-20		Richard Renouf	Nehemiah (3) (Rebuild)	Defending the faith
10-May-20		Richard Renouf	Nehemiah (4) (Renew)	Defending the faith

### The Call

At a time when normative Christianity is under external attack in ways that are novel – even by historical standards – so the need to rebuild, shore-up, renew and defend are ever present. Of course the *true* church has always been under external attack. Nehemiah provides an object lesson in being realistic about need and in being practical about remedies to issues.

### Series participants

As above

### Dates

As above

## Series Objective

Christians have always seen a sort of parable in the account of Nehemiah. It speaks plainly of the outcome of spiritual rebellion and weakness (i.e. defeat and exile). It also speaks about remedying weakness and “rebuilding”. It invites us to look at our own lives and circumstances and to consider what issues and weaknesses are there and what, in our lives, needs to be “rebuilt”. It shows us how God is still “backing” us even when we are spiritually flat on our faces and needing to be lifted up and dusted down.

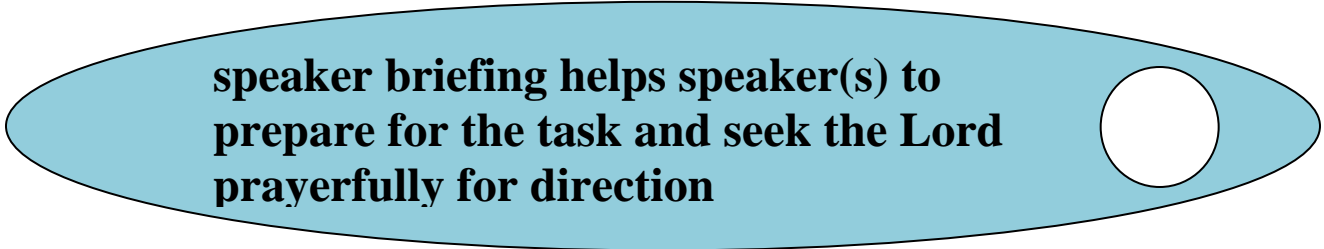
The objective is to see Nehemiah in the context of Christian life and experience and to see how we can apply its lessons at a very practical level in our own lives.

We are not suggesting any New Testament parallels and the speaker is entirely free to draw these out as he feels led.

However the structure of the historical account breaks down into sub-sections (suggested above) so hopefully this provides a basic structure.

At the end of the four weeks, our flock will know with confidence:

1. God is never content to leave us where we are – He is always preparing us for better things
2. God will restore even the most ardent rebel – to the extent they are prepared to work within His purposes
3. We must be alert and on guard – we do have to defend our faith, especially today when the external and internal threats are real. Sanctification (living for Christ) requires an active strategy.
4. We have an enemy who wants to keep us weak and on the back foot, spiritually speaking.



**speaker briefing helps speaker(s) to  
prepare for the task and seek the Lord  
prayerfully for direction**