

Called Distractions

God has a destiny for every person that requires intense focus (Nehemiah 6:1-13). Focus is necessary because we have an enemy who wants to distract us from that destiny and calling. Three of our enemy's most common tactics to distract us include presenting us with other opportunities (that are often good), consuming our attention with rumors from others, and threatening our security. Like Nehemiah, we resist these temptations by learning to say no and standing firm in the conviction that we are *doing a great work and cannot come down* (Nehemiah 6:3). When we stay focused on our calling, God accomplishes His purposes through us in powerful and often miraculous ways.

GETTING STARTED

Share about a time in your life when you were greatly distracted by something you should not have been. How did you feel when your distraction came to light?

GO DEEPER

1. In Nehemiah 6:1-4, Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem try to pull Nehemiah away from his work in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem to remotely meet with them. What made this opportunity a distraction? How do we discern if an opportunity is good (and something God wants us to pursue) rather than a distraction?
2. From Nehemiah 6:5-13, what other distractions did Nehemiah face? In each instance, how did Nehemiah respond? Are these distractions tactics of the enemy, just part of human nature that we need grace for, or both?
3. According to 1 Corinthians 7:17, every person has a calling and destiny. Why do so many followers of Jesus downplay or dismiss this idea for themselves?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What is distracting you right now? What do you generally struggle to say no to, and what do you need to say no to specifically in this season?
2. What does God want you to say yes to? How focused are you on what God is calling you into?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take some time as a group to identify the things that are distracting you. Pray together for courage and strength to focus on the *greater works* He is calling you to pursue without distraction. Ask Him for an increased measure of discernment in what to say yes or no to.