

GREAT EXPECTATIONS SERIES

"Determination"

Nehemiah 4

I. Determined to START.

- It takes a great deal of determination just to GET STARTED. (2:20)
- Some people have PLANS FOR YOUR FAILURE.
_____ . (2:10,19)

II. Determined to CONTINUE.

- There will be a variety of attempts to get you TO QUIT.
 - TRASH TALKING (4:1-3)
 - TEAMING UP (4: 7-8)
 - TIRED (4:10)
 - THREATS (4:11-12)
- You need a variety of ways to overcome them.
 - PRAYER (4: 4-5, 9)
 - KEEP BUILDING (4:6)
 - ARMED & READY TO FIGHT (4:9 -23)
 - REMEMBER YOUR REASON (4:14)

III. Determined to FINISH.

- The ENERGY to finish is often the MOST DEMANDING
_____ . (6: 1-14)
- Nehemiah refuses to GIVE IN! (6:15 - 19)

Small Group Discussion Guide

- **Read Joshua 6:2-15, 20.** Identify and discuss the amazing examples of determination seen in these verses. What do you think was the driving force behind the Israelites' determination? Explain how God works through our determination and faith. Discuss the sacrifices each of the Israelites must have made from beginning to the victorious end. Share the specific sacrifices you have determined to make to support the vision of your church.
- **Read Ruth 1:8-16.** What were the odds against Ruth in her situation? What do you think enabled Ruth to persevere despite the odds? Explain what determination in the face of opposition says about your faith? Why do you think Orpah gave up so easily? Are you more like Orpah or Ruth? If you are too much like Orpah, what do you think you need to do to be more like Ruth?
- **Read Gen. 2: 21-3:1, Num. 12:1-2A, Matt. 16:23.** When we set out to do a work for God, rest assured that determination will be met with opposition. Explain how the thread of opposition to God's work is seen in each of these scriptures. What other Biblical examples of opposition to God's work can you recall? Who is generally the author of opposition to God's work? Through what sources does the 'opposer' work? Share an example of how you have been opposed in your effort to do God's work and how God enabled you through your determination to succeed.
- **Read I Cor. 15:58; Rom. 2:6, Prov. 13:4.** On a scale of 1-10 how fully do you give yourself to the work of the Lord? In what specific areas is God leading you to be more determined? What does the Proverbs scripture say about our desires, efforts, and the end results?

Taking it home: How will I live it? Apply it?

Memorize these scriptures—**Deut 31:6 and Heb. 13:6**; pray them back to God during your prayer time every day for strength and courage to be determined.