

**Encounter these verses today:**

circle words that you identify with,  
underline phrases or sentences you'd  
like to remember, write questions about  
the passage out to the side ...

**Nehemiah 6 | Distractions to the Rebuilding**

When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it—though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates—<sup>2</sup> Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: “Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.”

But they were scheming to harm me;<sup>3</sup> so I sent messengers to them with this reply: “I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?”<sup>4</sup> Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.

<sup>5</sup> Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter<sup>6</sup> in which was written:

“It is reported among the nations—and Geshem says it is true—that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt, and therefore you are building the wall. Moreover, according to these reports you are about to become their king<sup>7</sup> and have even appointed prophets to make this proclamation about you in Jerusalem: ‘There is a king in Judah!’ Now this report will get back to the king; so come, let us meet together.”

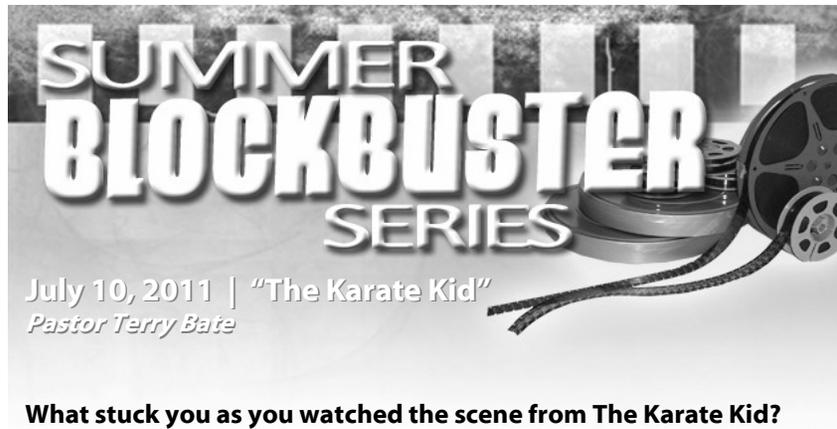
<sup>8</sup> I sent him this reply: “Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head.”

<sup>9</sup> They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed.”

But I prayed, “Now strengthen my hands.”

<sup>10</sup> One day I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home. He said, “Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you—by night they are coming to kill you.”

<sup>11</sup> But I said, “Should a man like me run away? Or should someone like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!”<sup>12</sup> I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.<sup>13</sup> He had been hired to intimidate me so that I would commit a sin by doing this, and then they would give me a bad name to discredit me.



**Interesting facts about Nehemiah ...**

**Three Distractions that challenged Nehemiah’s focus:**

**How does my focus need to improve?**



# Digging Deeper

[Engage the message throughout the week]

**Monday: 7.11.2011**

**Passage: 1 Chronicles 29:14-20**

**Insight:** King David has come to the end of his reign and earthly life. This prayer reflects his gratitude of God's blessings and of the peoples generosity. Notice his prayer for his son, the new King, Solomon. His prayer for him is directed at focus and devotion.

**My Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday: 7.12.2011**

**Passage: Matthew 6:5-8**

**Insight:** In Jesus' day, prayer often took place in very public places to show a certain level of spiritual superiority. Those who were humble and meek would never feel worthy enough to address God in this way. Jesus just changed the rules!

**My Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday: 7.13.2011**

**Passage: Romans 3:20-24**

**Insight:** The Law of God does not make anyone righteous or holy. The Law is only good to make us aware of sin. So if we want to feel like sinners, let's focus on the Law. If we want to experience Christlikeness, let's focus on grace and mercy!

**My Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday: 7.14.2011**

**Passage: Romans 4:18-22**

**Insight:** Abraham should have never become a father. He was too old and too cranky. But God chose him and his response was to be attentive and focused on the ways of God like never before. Verse 22 says that faithful focus was why he became so righteous!

**My Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Friday: 7.15.2011**

**Passage: Galatians 3:1-5**

**Insight:** It is so easy to get off track and allow other things to ruin our perspective. For the Galatians, that pesky Law was still creeping in and cause them all kinds of obligations to spiritual tasks that reap no spiritual fruit. The law can't be our motivator ~ but Jesus can be and must be. How can you focus on Him today and allow Him to draw you closer?

**My Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Christmas in July For the Flushing Christian Outreach Center



Flushing Christian Outreach Center's (FCOC) vision & mission: "Our vision is to respond to the needs of the whole person with the goal of inviting them into a relationship with Jesus Christ & His church. Our mission is to respond to the needs of the whole person: physical, spiritual & emotional through a cooperative effort connecting local existing ministries & available resources through a centralized volunteer based center."

**Flushing Community Church is a member of FCOC**, providing support with prayer & donations (food, clothing & financial gifts). FCOC provides food, clothing & referral services to those in need within the 48433 zip code ... Our Neighbors, Our Community!! Did you know, each month, nearly 200 families are served at FCOC?

Donations from the Nov/Dec FCOC-Food Bank of Eastern MI ornament fundraiser were drastically lower than we had hoped. In order to assure there will be adequate funds in FCOC's Food Bank of Eastern MI account, we are doing a "Christmas in July" fundraiser. All donations used to purchase food.

Every \$1.00 donated will allow FCOC to purchase food for 6 MEALS! **Checks may be made payable to FCOC or FBEM** (Food Bank Eastern MI). **Please note "Acct P988" in memo section** to assure it is deposited into the FCOC account. Thanks for your support.

If you have any questions call Debi at 659-6930  
or email at [dwright1@hurleymc.com](mailto:dwright1@hurleymc.com)