I. WELCOME, 15 mins.
Prepare a couple of easy, fun and dynamic icebreaker games to get your group warmed up. Help your cell members to put aside their busy & stressful life. Prepare their minds to come before God.

II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.
Prepare a few songs that help to bring your members to come to the throne of God. As you worship, help your members to encounter with God and experience God’s presence. During this time, the cell leader should also lead the group to pray aloud for the following prayer items:

A. MISSION ORGANIZATION: __________, and their needs are: __________
(Please contact the church if you don’t know the needs of the mission organization.)

B. CHURCH MINISTRY:
- 6/15-7/25 Pray America
- 7/31-8/3 Glocal Impact Conference.
- 8/10-9/28 Legacy Class by Dave Ramsey
- 8/24 Family Fun Day

C. New comer: __________ Identify new comers before cell meeting.
Sick members, friends or relatives: __________ Please also discuss how you may show your cares to them.

III. WORD, 45 mins. By sharing God’s word, the group may discuss how you may apply it in everyday life.

A. Sharing message from last Sunday’s sermon: (Try and listen to the sermon on-line once again.)
   1. What is the key message from last Sunday sermon? What did God talk to you through the message?
   2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

B. Discussion Topic: Arise and Build

   Scriptures: Nehemiah 2:10-20
   Memorizing Verse: Then I replied to them, “The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem.” (Neh. 2:20)

   As the local officials, Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite heard that Nehemiah was about to rebuild the ruined Jerusalem walls, they were very disturbed. (v.10) Yet before the rebuild, God put the vision in Nehemiah’s heart, made him go through the details of the whole city and think about his execution plan.

1. Nehemiah made a thorough investigation and preparation for rebuilding the walls (v. 11-16)

   A) He carefully investigated Jerusalem during the nights. (v. 11-12): God had already given him a plan and revealed to him what he needed to do in Jerusalem. He prudently protected the plan, lest the plan should be aborted and destroyed before it even took place. He made sure that all the necessary preparation work was completed. Before he took the action, he simply rode on an animal without letting anyone know or arousing any suspicion.

   B) He did a field observation. He evaluated and made plans. (v.13-15): He went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and he inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. Then he went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King’s Pool. Then he went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and he turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. After the field observation, He knew what needed to be done. The fact that Nehemiah was able to complete the rebuild showed us that the preparation work prior to it was very important.

   C) He didn’t tell anyone (v.16): Disclosing a plan that was not well-orchestrated would often induce objective voices and different opinions. We can tell that Nehemiah was very wise by withholding his plan to anyone before he knew what to do.

2. Nehemiah shared his vision and urged the residents to rebuild the wall (v17-18)
A) He aroused people to rebuild (v. 17): After a considerate amount of preparation, he knew it was time to make the announcement. First off, he showed the people how important it was to rebuild the walls. Nehemiah lived in the palace and did not suffer as the people in Jerusalem did. Nevertheless, he identified himself as being part of them and kept claiming it, being “our” trouble. He showed everyone including the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials or any others who would be doing the work how badly Jerusalem was laid in ruins. Once they saw the calamity and peril they were in, they all felt the urgency to rebuild the walls. They had no choice but to rebuild the walls to prevent from experiencing the disgrace once again.

B) He testified his own experience to encourage people in Jerusalem (v.18): Nehemiah shared his testimony about what the king had said to him and how gracious the hand of God was upon him. His proposal pleased the king, so that he was able to leave his cupbearer’s position for a certain time. He not only was allowed to visit his homeland, granted permissive letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, but was given timber to be used in rebuilding the city. He assured the people that if God could help him, God would definitely help everyone in Jerusalem. His testimony greatly encouraged people in Jerusalem, so they replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.

3. Nehemiah Defeated the Enemies with Faith (v.19-20)

A) Mocks and ridicules from the enemies (v.19): The good work of God was meant to be tested with hostile, and it would only get worse. In this case, Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite are used by the enemy to offend them. It was obvious that once the walls were rebuilt, these people’s interests and political statuses would be impacted. They mocked and ridiculed the people in Jerusalem to discourage them. They even tried to accuse them of intending to rebel against the king with the assumption that Nehemiah rebuilt the walls with the trust, resources and power from the king. He may very likely rise against the authority of the king.

B) Faith by declaration relies on God and by not leaving foothold to the enemies (v. 20): Nehemiah wholeheartedly trusted in the Lord. He declared that “we must arise and build,” because that was what we the God’s servants’ are assigned. God would for sure be our help and “give us success.” We must have a clear cut with the enemies -- they have no portion or right or claim to God’s good work.

Discussion: (Please pick the questions that are suitable for your cell group’s needs.)

1. How do you prepare when you were sent on a business trip or out on a trip?
2. Why did Nehemiah need to be so cautious to even perform a field observation? What were his concerns? What did it have to do with rebuilding the walls?
3. What did Nehemiah do to cheer up the distressed and disappointed residents so that they would rebuild the walls?
4. As you responded to God’s calling and were ready to do great things for God yet got mocked ridiculed by other people, how would you feel and what would you do?
5. From the reading of today’s verses, we learned how God helped Nehemiah and how Nehemiah replied on God. What insight and takes are to you?

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you. Although enemies may ridicule and attack us, we truly trust that your gracious hands have been helping us. Give us a discerned heart and prudent spirit. As we are carrying out our dreams, we would rely on your grace to resist all the attacks from the enemies. Dear Lord Father, you are the God who keeps covenant and love. You will help us to accomplish the good work you entrusted us. We thank you for your grace, in Jesus name. AMEN!

IV. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.

Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other’s needs.