



Membership † **Discipleship** † Leadership

John 13:34-35 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

I am a disciple of \_\_\_\_\_.

"A follower of Jesus Christ who studies the scriptures and diligently seeks to comply with what God commands." Jesus said "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed." (John 8:31)

## "Unity is Key"

† Proverbs 4:7 *"Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding"*

This week as we study the books of Nehemiah and Esther during our daily devotion, we'll witness just how important unity is to God. Although God is not mentioned in the book of Esther, His favor is demonstrated consistently. We see the people of God working together knowing that all things work together for the good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28). Unity is key (vital, necessary) to enter the kingdom. If we truly love God, we possess the ability to love one another (1 Jn 4:20). A house divided against itself cannot stand (Mk 3:25). As disciples, we understand that we advance the kingdom as we build the church. Read Matthew 16:13-19 and let's continue to build. **All** will know that you are a disciple for Jesus Christ by the love that you show towards others (Jn 13:35).

**Kingdom Builders** – The children of Israel had survived exile but their mind, will and emotions were still in distress. Nehemiah had compassion for the people of God and understood the principles of Kingdom building. He knew the power of praying and fasting. Confessing his sins and acknowledging his disobedience towards God was necessary to get God's divine attention (ch 1). It's clear that God called Nehemiah to rebuild. Getting released (permission) from the king gives us insight on Nehemiah's character. He consulted God first and then consulted with the king. It pleases God when we we're accountable and are humble enough to submit. He assessed the plan of God before he spoke the Word from God. When we do things decently and in order, it increases the willingness to build (ch 2). The people had a mind to build despite opposition and conspiracy from the adversary. They contributed to the vision and labored in unity (ch 3-4). We cannot get weary in well doing. When others expect you to conform, send them a message "I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?" (ch 5-6). As you journey through these 52 keys, be inspired by how the people built in 52 days with the help of the God. We're operating in the supernatural so we can do the extraordinary. If anyone lacks understanding, we should be able to direct them to the Word of God (ch 8). What did you learn from the unity that was demonstrated in the book of Nehemiah?

† Romans 12:2 “. . . be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

**Key to the King** – We don’t have to come against each other to win a place in the king’s heart. Do what God has called you to do trusting that the king’s heart is in the Lord’s hand because the Lord is in control (Prov. 21:1). Esther did not use any deceitful tactics to discredit the other young women as they were being prepared to please the king. Due to her obedience and Godly character, she found grace and favor in his sight (ch. 2). We must be aware of those who will use trickery in an attempt to deceive the king to write a decree that could cause division (ch. 3). Would you be willing to go before the king on behalf of the people? Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this? We must learn the urgency of unifying to conquer the tricks of the enemy. Esther understood kingdom principles. She told Mordecai to gather the people and fast (no food or drink for three days, night and day). Her and the maids were also partakers in the fast. Esther said “if I perish, I perish!” The king asked Esther to make her request known up to half the kingdom. Esther prepared a table in the presence of the enemy. Esther used wisdom and remained respectful. Her request was to save her life and the lives of the people. Continue to do the right thing. The same enemy who conspired against you will later serve as your footstool (ch 6-7). Philippians 4:6 says let your requests be made known to God. As you continue to study the book of Esther, what’s your request to God to unify His people? We prepared our keys to the kingdom for 52 weeks and Esther prepared for the king for 12 months (52 weeks). List supporting scriptures that will help you gain a deeper understanding of unity in the kingdom.

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† Psalm 119:11 “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.”

Day/ Week of	Daily Reading	What verse had the most impact?
Monday <input type="checkbox"/>	Nehemiah 1-3	
Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/>	Nehemiah 4-6	
Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/>	Nehemiah 7-9	
Thursday <input type="checkbox"/>	Nehemiah 10-13	
Friday <input type="checkbox"/>	Esther 1-3	
Saturday <input type="checkbox"/>	Esther 4-6	
Sunday <input type="checkbox"/>	Esther 7-10	

Submit questions to MCCquestions@yahoo.com

