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| **TOPIC** | **FOCUS ON THE ASSIGNMENT** |
| **DATE** | Sunday, May 11, 2025 |

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| **MEMORY VERSE** | “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.” **1 Corinthians 9:** **24.** |
| **BIBLE TEXT** | **Nehemiah 4: 1-6.** |

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| **INTRODUCTION** |
| Every manufacturer designs a product with the intent of it meeting a specific function or need. In the same manner, God has created each one of us for a specific purpose which fits into his ultimate purpose – that his Kingdom come, and his will be done on earth as it is in heaven (**Matt 6: 10**). Unfortunately, we get carried away by the cares of this world, thereby hindering us from fulfilling the purpose of which we were created (**Mk 4:19**). Unfortunately, your “valid excuses” will not be accepted by our manufacturer as reasons for not carrying out the assignment He entrusted unto us. It is our prayer that the Lord God will help us set our face like a flint and not be ashamed in Jesus’ name. Amen. **Isa. 50: 7**. |
| **LESSON OUTLINE**   * 1. **IDENTIFY THE ASSIGNMENT**   2. **WEATHER THE STORM** |
| 1. **IDENTIFY THE ASSIGNMENT**   According to Dr. Myles Munroe, “When a purpose of a thing is not known, abuse is inevitable.” Unfortunately, this simple but factual statement is the reason why we have a world full of confused people. This confusion isn’t only between unbelievers, but also some believers.  For the unbeliever, the root of this confusion stems from not knowing and acknowledging God (**Rom. 1:18-32**). **Isa. 45:9** paints out what we see today. “Does the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you making, Does your work say, The potter has no hands?’” Until there is an acknowledgement and surrender to Christ, the unbeliever will remain in a confused state, when measured on the scale of God.  Why do believers become confused or walk in a confused state? One major reason is the failure to seek the Holy Spirit’s help (**1 Cor. 2:10**). According to the scripture, without the help of God, we wont know exactly what God wants us to do per time. It is God who knows the plans he has for us (**Jer 29: 11**) so if we fail to seek Him out to reveal those plans, but instead decide to work with our understanding, it wont be long before we discover that our understanding will fail us**. Prov. 3: 5-6**.   1. **WEATHER THE STORM**   The journey towards fulfilling purpose can be summarized in the story of the man who set out on a journey to execute a contract. Unfortunately, he had to get to the destination in less than five hours if he was to get the deal done. This man was so focused that he was confident nothing could stop him from getting to his destination and signing the contract. On his way, he encountered so many distractions, including stopping to eat, amongst many others. However, just about 30 minutes to his destination, he runs into an old friend who he hadn’t seen in over 20 years. He decided to pull over and have a quick discussion with his friend but after the conversation was over, he realized he only had 5 minutes to get to his destination. At this point he knew he had lost the deal because he still had at least 15 minutes’ drive to reach the destination.  No wonder **1 Cor. 9: 24** encourages us to run until we obtain the price. Therefore, we must be fixated on the goal and ignore the distractions. The distractions can include wanting to please people, competition, social media, quest to be known and popular, and even sometimes our career. We see in **Neh. 4: 2-3** how the Jews ignored those who mock them just so they can finish the work given to them by God. |
| **SUMMARY**  We can only know our purpose through the help of God. In fulfilling purpose, we must avoid distractions. |
| **CONCLUSION**  In conclusion, God is gracious enough to surround you with people who will help you fulfill the assignment, **Neh. 4: 6**. However, the bulk of the work to ensure you complete the assignment lies with you. It is by prayer that God will strengthen you to finish well in Jesus’ name. Amen. |
| **QUESTIONS**   * + - 1. How can one discover the assignment?       2. What can you do to overcome distractions? |