WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Biblical Mandates for Defense

Study Guide

Old Testament Studies

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Biblical Mandates for Defense

Part One

January 20, 2024

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-21 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Opposition to God's Work

Those who serve God will inevitably face mockery, slander, and threats from the world, as exemplified by Sanballat and Tobiah's attacks on Nehemiah.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Anyone that serves the flesh, the world and the devil will automatically be against anyone who is doing that which is right and holy and just.'

The Necessity of Sacrifice for Defense

Biblical defense requires sacrificing personal pleasures and conveniences to acquire necessary resources like food, ammunition, and medical supplies.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'Are you willing to give up your pleasures, your conveniences and whatever it takes in order for you to build the wall?'

The Power of Ridicule as Manipulation

Ridicule is a tool of manipulation and control that can discourage believers from doing right; they must learn to ignore it.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Ridicule and mockery... is a means of manipulation and control. If I can manipulate you, I can control you.'

Trust in God's Providence

Despite impossible odds, Nehemiah trusted God to handle his enemies through prayer, and believers must rely on God to make their efforts succeed.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'One thing that he overlooked. And that is the sovereign providence of God. Because with God, everything is possible.'

Personal Responsibility for Family Defense

Believers are responsible to prepare and protect their families, learning from the ant to work and store up provisions.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'You're responsible for your life, your family, and you must do whatever is necessary to protect them.'

Key Arguments

Defense requires strength and determination, not weakness.

Sanballat's mockery of the 'feeble Judahites' highlights that defense is not for the weak; it demands character and grit to finish the task.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The work of defense is not for weaklings and for those who are not determined.'

Personal rubble must be cleared before building defense.

Just as Nehemiah had to clear rubble before rebuilding the wall, believers must remove sin, poor work ethic, and other hindrances from their lives.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'You cannot begin to work until you remove the rubble and trash that's in your way.'

Sacrifice is essential for preparedness.

The question 'Will they sacrifice?' challenges believers to give up non-essentials to afford defensive supplies, as illustrated by the ant in Proverbs.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You cannot get the necessary equipment or the necessary materials you need to survive as a family without sacrificing.'

Timely action is critical; delay invites intervention.

Sanballat's threat implies that if the wall isn't built quickly, enemies will stop it; similarly, believers must prepare before crises hit.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'If you don't do it quickly, we will intervene. We'll do everything we can to stop this work.'

Quality of preparation matters.

Tobiah's mockery about a fox breaking the wall underscores that shoddy work fails; believers must invest in reliable defensive resources.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If we do shoddy work when it comes to defending ourselves... you're going to be the one that suffers.'

Prayer is the proper response to opposition.

Nehemiah's imprecatory prayer models turning enemies over to God's justice rather than being consumed by their ridicule.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'He doesn't get bent out of shape. He just looks to the Lord and says, "Lord, you handle it."'

Scripture References

Nehemiah 4:1-5

Weaver reads the opening verses describing Sanballat's anger and mockery of the Jews rebuilding the wall.

Nehemiah 8:9

Weaver references this verse to show that Nehemiah, as Tirshatha (governor), and Ezra were both concerned with teaching God's law.

Ezra 5:1

Weaver cites this to mention the prophets Haggai and Zechariah who encouraged the remnant during the rebuilding.

Nehemiah 4:7-8

Weaver reads about the conspiracy of Sanballat, Tobiah, and others to fight against Jerusalem and hinder the work.

Nehemiah 6:1-9

Weaver reads about the enemies' attempts to lure Nehemiah into a trap and their false accusations of rebellion.

John 15:18-21

Weaver quotes Jesus' words about the world hating believers because it hated Him first, and that persecution is expected.

Nehemiah 2:11-15

Weaver reads about Nehemiah's night inspection of the broken walls and gates, noting the rubble that needed clearing.

Psalm 66:18

Weaver quotes David's statement that regarding iniquity in the heart hinders prayer, applying it to the need to clear sin.

Luke 14:28-32

Weaver reads Jesus' teaching on counting the cost before building a tower or going to war, emphasizing the need to finish what is started.

Proverbs 6:6-11

Weaver reads about the ant's diligence in storing food in summer, applying it to the need for sacrifice and preparation.

Psalm 9:11-16

Weaver reads this imprecatory psalm where the wicked are snared in their own works, paralleling Nehemiah's prayer.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does the opposition Nehemiah faced from Sanballat and Tobiah parallel the ridicule Christians may face today for their beliefs?

Consider: Weaver discusses the mockery and slander directed at Nehemiah and applies it to modern persecution, such as being labeled a domestic terrorist for buying a Bible.

2. What 'rubble' in your life - such as sin, poor work ethic, or lack of determination - might be hindering your ability to prepare for your family's defense?

Consider: Weaver uses the metaphor of clearing rubble before rebuilding the wall to illustrate the need to address personal issues.

3. In what areas of your life are you unwilling to sacrifice pleasures or conveniences for the sake of preparedness?

Consider: Weaver challenges listeners to consider what they are willing to give up, using examples like expensive coffee and vacations.

4. How can we ensure that our defensive preparations are of high quality and not 'shoddy work' that will fail when tested?

Consider: Weaver warns against buying cheap or unreliable supplies, using the analogy of Tobiah's mockery about a fox breaking the wall.

5. What can we learn from Nehemiah's response of imprecatory prayer when facing ridicule and threats?

Consider: Weaver highlights Nehemiah's prayer for God to turn the enemies' reproach on their own heads as a model for handling opposition.

Applications

Ignore ridicule and do what is right.

Believers must learn to ignore mockery and criticism from the world and continue doing God's work, trusting Him to handle their enemies.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We must learn to ignore ridicule and do what is right before God and for our family.'

Take personal responsibility for family defense.

Each person is responsible to prepare and protect their family, learning from the ant to work, sacrifice, and store up provisions.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'You're responsible for your life, your family, and you must do whatever is necessary to protect them.'

Sacrifice to acquire necessary defensive resources.

Prioritize spending on food, ammunition, and medical supplies by cutting non-essential expenses, as financial sacrifice is unavoidable.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You cannot get the necessary equipment or the necessary materials you need to survive as a family without sacrificing.'

Clear personal 'rubble' before building defense.

Address sin, character issues, and lack of determination in your life, as these hinder effective preparation and spiritual growth.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'You cannot begin to work until you remove the rubble and trash that's in your way.'

Trust God to make your efforts prevail.

While taking practical steps, rely on God's sovereign providence and pray for His intervention, as Nehemiah did.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'Not only must we do what is right, we must also trust in the Lord Jesus Christ to make what we do prevail.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Biblical Mandates for Defense

Part Two

January 20, 2024

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-43 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Ultimate Protection Comes from God

While physical preparations are necessary, ultimate safety and deliverance depend on God, who is our fortress and defense.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Our ultimate protection is not in our weaponry. It's not in our preparations. It's not in our abilities. Our ultimate protection is in God Himself.'

Integration of Prayer and Practical Action

Prayer and practical defensive measures must go together; trusting God does not negate the need for vigilance and preparation.

Lecture support: Nehemiah 4:9 is cited: 'Nevertheless we made our prayer unto God and set a watch against them day and night because of them.'

Situational Awareness and Vigilance

Believers must be alert to their surroundings and potential threats, avoiding cognitive dissonance that leads to complacency.

Lecture support: Weaver discusses cognitive dissonance and the need to 'watch and pray' as Jesus commanded in Matthew 26:41.

Preparedness and Training for Defense

Having weapons is not enough; believers must be trained, proficient, and ready to use them effectively, including family members.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes, 'If you cannot get your weapon out in a timely manner, you're not prepared to use your weapon.'

Overcoming Fear with Faith

Fear paralyzes, but remembering the Lord's power and faithfulness enables believers to fight courageously for their families.

Lecture support: Nehemiah 4:14: 'Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren.'

Testing and Proving Equipment and Preparations

Warren Luke stresses the need to test weapons, gear, and plans before they are needed, using David's example of choosing five smooth stones.

Lecture support: Luke says, 'Prove all things, test all things, hold fast that which is good.'

Key Arguments

Prayer is the first and foundational defensive mandate.

Because God holds our lives and times, prayer acknowledges His sovereignty and is essential before any physical defense.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Psalm 127:1: 'Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.'

Trusting God does not preclude using means of self-defense.

Relying on God includes actively preparing and fighting; faith and works are complementary, not contradictory.

Lecture support: Adam Clarke quote: 'The strongest confidence in the protection and favor of God does not preclude the use of all or any of the means of self-preservation and defense.'

Surprise attacks are a common enemy tactic that must be anticipated.

Being caught off guard leads to fear or freezing; believers must maintain constant vigilance to avoid being surprised.

Lecture support: Weaver references the Battle of Trenton and Sun Tzu's 'The Art of War' on the effectiveness of surprise.

There will always be compromisers and traitors among God's people.

Fearful individuals may fraternize with the enemy for personal safety or gain, and believers must be aware of such threats.

Lecture support: Weaver interprets Nehemiah 4:12 as Jews trying to dissuade the builders by repeating enemy threats.

Families should be trained and prepared to fight together.

Nehemiah set the people by families with weapons; wives and children should know how to use firearms in case the primary defender is incapacitated.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'Men, does your wife know how to shoot? Does your wife know how to use your weapons?'

Preparedness often deters conflict.

When enemies see that defenders are ready and willing to fight, they may abandon their plans, as in Nehemiah 4:15.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'When you are prepared to fight, when you know how to fight, when you're willing to fight, most of the time you don't have to fight.'

Equipment must be tested and proven before it is relied upon.

Warren Luke argues that untested gear can fail in critical moments; believers must practice with their weapons and supplies.

Lecture support: Luke uses the example of David rejecting Saul's armor because he had not proved it, and his own Kel-Tec Sub 2000 that was painful to shoot.

Tactical prudence includes having reloads and backup plans.

David took five stones, not just one, demonstrating sensible preparation even while trusting God for victory.

Lecture support: Luke states, 'It makes tactical sense to have reloads. It makes preparation sense for us to store up ammo.'

Scripture References

Nehemiah 4:9

First defensive mandate: prayer and setting a watch.

Psalm 66:9

God holds our soul and life.

Psalm 31:15

Our times are in God's hands.

Psalm 127:1

Unless the Lord keeps the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

Proverbs 21:31

The horse is prepared for battle, but safety is of the Lord.

Psalm 34:4

David sought the Lord and was delivered from fears.

Psalm 66:19

God heard David's prayer.

2 Chronicles 13:3, 17-18

Judah outnumbered but prevailed because they relied on the Lord.

Matthew 26:41

Watch and pray to avoid temptation.

Nehemiah 4:11

Adversaries planned a surprise attack.

Jeremiah 48:4

Strongholds surprised, mighty men's hearts like a woman in labor.

Nehemiah 4:12

Jews dwelling by the enemy came ten times with warnings.

Nehemiah 4:13-14

Nehemiah set the people by families with weapons and encouraged them to fight.

Proverbs 29:25

Fear of man brings a snare.

Exodus 15:3

The Lord is a man of war.

Isaiah 42:13

The Lord shall go forth as a mighty man of war.

Nehemiah 4:15-17

Enemies heard they were known, and the people worked with weapons ready.

Nehemiah 4:18, 20

The trumpet was used as a rallying point.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

All Scripture is profitable for instruction in righteousness.

1 Samuel 17:38-40

David rejected Saul's armor and chose five smooth stones.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How can we balance trusting God for protection while also taking practical steps for self-defense?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that prayer and preparation go together, citing Nehemiah 4:9 and Proverbs 21:31.

2. What are some examples of cognitive dissonance in our thinking about personal safety and national threats?

Consider: Weaver discusses how people hold contradictory beliefs, such as acknowledging biblical defense but thinking they'll never need it.

3. In what ways can we improve our situational awareness in daily life?

Consider: Weaver points out that most people are easily surprised because they don't pay attention to their surroundings.

4. How should Christians respond to those within the church who fraternize with or appease enemies of the faith?

Consider: Weaver warns about fearful individuals who compromise for safety, using Nehemiah 4:12 as an example.

5. What steps can families take to ensure all members are prepared to defend themselves if necessary?

Consider: Weaver asks whether wives and children know how to use weapons, referencing Nehemiah setting families with weapons.

6. Why is it important to test and prove our equipment and plans before a crisis?

Consider: Warren Luke uses David's rejection of Saul's armor and his own Kel-Tec Sub 2000 to illustrate the need for testing.

7. How does David's choice of five stones demonstrate a balance between faith and tactical prudence?

Consider: Luke argues that David's extra stones show sensible preparation even while trusting God for victory.

8. What are some practical ways to establish rallying points and communication plans for family defense?

Consider: Weaver explains the concept of rallying points from Nehemiah 4:18-20 and suggests modern equivalents like radios.

Applications

Make prayer a central part of your defense strategy.

Begin with prayer, acknowledging that ultimate safety comes from God, not just physical preparations.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Prayer for safety and deliverance is relying upon God.'

Practice situational awareness daily.

Be alert to your surroundings, avoid distractions like phones, and assess environments for potential threats.

Lecture support: Weaver gives examples of people walking into manholes or not checking parking lots.

Train all family members in self-defense.

Ensure spouses and children know how to use firearms and respond to threats, as Nehemiah set families with weapons.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'Does your wife know how to shoot? Do your children know how to use your weapons?'

Test and prove your equipment and plans.

Regularly practice with weapons, check gear for functionality, and refine defensive plans through drills.

Lecture support: Warren Luke emphasizes, 'Prove all things, test all things, hold fast that which is good.'

Establish rallying points and communication methods.

Designate primary and secondary meeting places and ensure family members know how to communicate in an emergency.

Lecture support: Weaver explains Nehemiah's use of a trumpet and suggests modern equivalents like handheld radios.

Overcome fear by remembering God's power and faithfulness.

When facing threats, recall biblical examples of God's deliverance and trust in His sovereignty.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Nehemiah 4:14: 'Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord.'

Maintain vigilance even when threats seem to subside.

Do not let down your guard after a perceived victory; keep weapons ready and stay alert.

Lecture support: Weaver notes that Nehemiah kept half the people armed even after enemies retreated.

Do whatever is necessary to protect your family.

Adopt a mindset of determination and sacrifice, willing to endure discomfort or take action for defense.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You have to do whatever has to be done to protect yourself and protect your family.'

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Biblical Mandates for Defense - Part One

Lecture JW00121

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00121&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Biblical Mandates for Defense - Part Two

Lecture JW00124

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00124&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.