a called place home

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2026

a place called HOME



DEVOTIONALS —— WEEK 4



WEEK FOUR

A THIEF CIRCLES THE HOUSE

DAY 1: Don't Leave the Door Open

October 26, 2026

Nehemiah 4:7–9 NLT
7 But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall of Jerusalem were being repaired, they were furious. 8 They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion. 9 But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.

Have you ever left home and, after walking a few blocks, wondered if you locked the door properly? Suddenly, you start thinking about everything you left inside. And although there is likely no problem at all, the worry is enough to make you turn back and ensure everything is secure.

Why do we do that? Because we know that inside our home, there are valuable things we want to protect.

But if we think about it carefully, we discover that **the most valuable part of our home is not the things we have acquired, but the people with whom we share our lives.**

And yet, there is something curious: often, we are more careful about protecting our possessions than we are about protecting our relationships.

In Nehemiah 4, we find the people of Jerusalem rebuilding the city walls. After much effort, they were finally seeing results. But while they worked, their enemies began to conspire to attack and halt the reconstruction.

What is interesting is that Nehemiah did not let his enthusiasm for the work prevent him from recognizing the danger. Verse 9 tells us that they prayed to God and set up a guard to protect themselves. **They understood that building the walls was not enough; they also needed to protect what they were building.**

And this is a truth we need to bring into our own homes.

We may spend years working for our family, ensuring they lack nothing, and striving to provide them with a better future. But while we are busy building, we might neglect other things that also require our attention—
perhaps a wound we have never wanted to acknowledge;
a resentment that has been growing little by little;
an influence that is affecting our convictions;
or an emotional distance that we have begun to accept as normal.

These are situations that may not always seem dangerous at first, yet they can weaken the very things we love so dearly.

Proverbs 4:23 NLT says, *"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."* And this begins by recognizing that our attitudes, decisions, and desires also influence the health of our relationships.

It is not about living in fear, thinking that something bad is going to happen. It is about living with wisdom, paying attention to what truly matters.

Because love is not shown only by working to provide for our family; **it is also shown by being mindful of things that could cause them harm.**

Perhaps today is a good time to ask ourselves if we have left any doors open that require our attention—and to remember that, with God's help, we can still make choices to protect what we are building.

REMEMBER

WE CANNOT PROTECT WHAT WE LOVE IF WE IGNORE WHAT THREATENS IT.

THINK

Is there any attitude, situation, or influence you have allowed into your life that might be weakening the peace, trust, or unity of your home?

APPLY

Take a few minutes to examine your heart before God. Identify a situation that needs attention and consider a specific decision you can make to begin changing it. Do not focus on what others should do; start with what is within your own control.

PRAY

Lord, thank You for my home and for the people You have placed in my life. Forgive me for the times I have been so occupied with my responsibilities that I have neglected what is truly important. Grant me the discernment to recognize what might weaken our relationships, and the wisdom to make sound decisions. Help me to protect what we are building with love, and to honor You through the way I care for my family. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 2: The Cracks That Nobody Sees

October 27, 2026

Nehemiah 4:13 NLT
So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows.

Sometimes, the biggest problems in a house begin with very small signs: a damp spot on a wall, a barely noticeable crack, or a minor leak that seems insignificant.

At first, we might think it's nothing serious. We might decide to cover the stain with paint or simply put off the repair. But as time passes, we discover that what seemed trivial was actually causing far greater damage than we had imagined.

Something similar can happen within our families.

Not all relationships deteriorate because of a major argument or a painful event. Some begin to weaken gradually, through small issues that were never addressed:

A hurtful word that was never cleared up.
A disappointment that we chose to keep to ourselves.
A recurring behavior that slowly erodes trust.
Or an emotional distance that grows while everyone continues with their daily lives, as if nothing were wrong.

The challenge is that **we can become so accustomed to certain situations that we stop noticing the damage they are causing.**

In Nehemiah 4:13, we find an interesting detail. When Nehemiah learned of the threats against Jerusalem, he stationed guards specifically at the lowest and most exposed parts of the wall. He did not ignore these vulnerable spots; he paid close attention to them, understanding that a neglected defense could put the entire city at risk.

Proverbs 27:12 NLT says, *"A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences."*

This same wisdom is needed in our family relationships. Sometimes we know something isn't right, but we avoid talking about it for fear of an argument. At other times, we convince ourselves that time will resolve the very things we are unwilling to face.

And while some situations do require time, **the mere passage of time does not, by itself, heal every wound or resolve every conflict.**

That is why we need to ask the Lord to grant us the sensitivity to recognize what requires our

attention, as well as the humility to acknowledge when we ourselves have contributed to the problem.

Perhaps the crack that needs repairing does not lie solely in someone else's attitude. It might also stem from a word we spoke, a promise we failed to keep, or an apology we keep putting off.

And here we find a hopeful truth: discovering a crack does not mean that all is lost. It may, in fact, be the very opportunity to begin repairing what has become weakened.

God can provide the wisdom, patience, and courage needed to take that first step. For caring for our home is not about pretending that problems never exist; rather, it is about learning to face them with love and responsibility before they lead to deeper wounds.

REMEMBER

THE SMALL WOUNDS WE IGNORE TODAY CAN TURN INTO GREAT DISTANCES TOMORROW.

THINK
Is there any situation, attitude, or wound within your family that you have chosen to ignore, even though you know it needs to be addressed?

APPLY
Think of a relationship in your family that requires more attention. Instead of focusing on the other person's mistakes, ask yourself what you can do to contribute to its restoration. It might mean initiating a conversation, listening with a more open heart, or acknowledging a mistake and asking for forgiveness.

PRAY
Lord, thank You because Your Word teaches me to live with wisdom. Help me to recognize the small wounds and situations that may be weakening our relationships. Grant me the humility to accept my own mistakes, the sensitivity to understand those I love, and the courage to address the things I have been putting off. May Your grace help me to nurture and strengthen our home each day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 3: When Fear Knocks at the Door

October 28, 2026

Nehemiah 4:14 NLT
Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!"

There are nights when the whole house is silent, yet our minds cannot find rest. The lights are off, the children are asleep, and everything seems calm. And yet, we remain awake, dwelling on a situation that worries us.

Perhaps it is a financial struggle, a difficulty in our marriage, the health of a loved one, or a decision made by our children that fills us with uncertainty. While everyone else rests, our minds begin to imagine what might happen.

For there is something we discover when we love our families deeply: **we worry not only about what is currently happening, but also about what we fear might happen.**

Fear has a way of creeping into our hearts. Sometimes it arrives alongside bad news; at other times, it emerges when we realize that, no matter how hard we try, there are situations beyond our control.

Something similar was happening to the people of Jerusalem. As they rebuilt the walls, they began to hear threats from their enemies. The danger was real, and fear began to spread among the workers.

Yet, in the midst of that situation, Nehemiah offered them some extraordinary words: Nehemiah 4:14 NLT — *"Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious!..."*

Notice that Nehemiah did not tell them to ignore the threats, nor did he promise that they would never face difficulties. Instead, he reminded them of who God is.

And that was precisely what they needed to hear.

When fear takes up too much space in our hearts, we may begin to view our problems as if they were larger than anything else. We forget the times God has sustained us, the answers we have received, and the faithfulness that has accompanied us throughout our lives. Gradually, we begin to live as though everything depends solely on our own strength.

But our hope does not rest on our ability to control everything. **Our hope rests on the character of the One who is always in control.** God remains powerful even when we feel weak. He remains faithful even when we do not know what tomorrow will bring. And He continues to watch over us when circumstances seem uncertain.

That is why 1 Peter 5:7 NLT say, *"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you."*

This does not mean that all our difficulties will disappear immediately. It means that we can face them without letting fear rule our hearts.

Perhaps there is something today that concerns you deeply, and you have yet to find a solution. Do what is within your power, seek the wisdom you need, and make the decisions that are yours to make.

But do not let worry cause you to forget who is walking alongside you. **Just because your household may be going through a battle, it does not mean that God has abandoned you.**

Tonight, when worries threaten to rob you of your rest, remember the Lord. He knows your family, He hears your prayers, and He remains faithful—even in the midst of things you do not yet understand.

REMEMBER

JUST BECAUSE A SITUATION IS BEYOND OUR CONTROL DOES NOT MEAN IT IS BEYOND GOD'S POWER.

THINK
What concern regarding your family is taking up so much space in your heart that it is stealing your peace?

APPLY
Take a few minutes to bring that specific concern before the Lord. Then, distinguish between what you can responsibly do yourself and what you need to leave in His hands. Whenever worry returns, consciously call to mind God's character and His promises.

PRAY
Heavenly Father, You know the worries I carry in my heart and the situations within my family that I do not know how to resolve. Forgive me for the times I have allowed fear to weaken my trust in You. Today, I want to remember that You are great, powerful, and faithful. Grant me the peace to rest in Your care, the wisdom to make sound decisions, and the strength to face whatever may come. Help me to remember that, even in the midst of our battles, You remain with us. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

DAY 4: We Are Not on Opposing Sides

October 29, 2026

Nehemiah 4:13-14 NLT
13 So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows. 14 Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!"

It is surprising how a conversation that begins over something small can end up turning into an argument that causes deep hurt.

Perhaps it all started because someone forgot to do something, arrived late, or made a decision we disagreed with. At first, we simply wanted to express a grievance. But then came the accusations, the tone of the conversation escalated, and we ended up saying things we never should have said. And when silence finally falls, we discover that the original problem is still there—but now we have something else to resolve: the wounds we inflicted upon each other during the argument. The saddest part is that **we often end up hurting the very people we love the most.**

In Nehemiah 4, we find a scene that offers an important lesson. When enemies threatened Jerusalem, Nehemiah organized the families so they would remain prepared and defend the city.

These men had different responsibilities, but they needed to remember that they were facing a common threat. They could not afford the luxury of fighting among themselves while their enemies sought to destroy what they were building.

We need to understand something similar in our own homes.

Family difficulties can lead to frustration, exhaustion, and disagreements. But if we are not careful, we may allow these challenges to make us forget that we are on the same side.

A financial concern can turn into a battle between spouses.
A poor decision by a child can lead to accusations between parents.
A difference of opinion can transform into a struggle to prove who is right.

And in the midst of all this, we forget that the true goal should not be to win an argument, but to find a wise way to address the problem.

Ephesians 6:12 CEB *"We aren't fighting against human enemies but against rulers, authorities, forces of cosmic darkness, and spiritual powers of evil in the heavens."*

The apostle is teaching believers to stand firm in the Lord against the strategies of the enemy. This does not mean that every family conflict is directly caused by Satan. We must also acknowledge our own mistakes, take responsibility for our decisions, and learn to control our words.

However, we do need to understand that division, resentment, and a lack of forgiveness can deeply weaken our relationships.

For this reason, there is something we should never forget: **Your spouse is not your enemy. Your children are not your enemies. Your parents are not your enemies.**

They are people with whom there may be differences, hurts, and issues that need to be addressed. But we must not allow conflicts to make us lose sight of their value and dignity. This does not mean we should tolerate mistreatment or ignore harmful behavior; loving others also requires setting healthy boundaries and seeking help when necessary.

Nevertheless, whenever it is possible to resolve our differences through dialogue, humility, and respect, let us not allow pride to lead us to destroy what we wish to preserve.

Sometimes, we need to pause in the middle of an argument and ask ourselves: *Am I truly seeking a solution, or do I just want to prove that I am right?* Because **having the last word is never more important than caring for the hearts of the people we love.**

May God help us remember that difficulties should lead us to seek solutions, rather than turning us into adversaries.

REMEMBER

DO NOT LET THE PROBLEM THREATENING YOUR HOME TURN YOUR FAMILY INTO YOUR ENEMY.

THINK

When a family conflict arises, do you strive to understand and resolve the situation, or do you allow pride and frustration to dictate your responses?

APPLY

Think of a recent situation where your words or attitudes may have increased tension within your family. If you realize that you acted wrongly, look for an opportunity to ask for forgiveness—without justifying your behavior. Humility can open a door toward healing.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You for the people You have placed in my life. Forgive me for the times I have allowed anger, pride, or frustration to lead me to hurt others. Help me to remember that our differences should not turn us into enemies. Grant me humility to acknowledge my mistakes, self-control to be careful with my words, and wisdom to face conflicts with love and truth. May Your peace rule our hearts and help us remain united. Amen.

DAY 5: Before the Alarm Goes Off

October 30, 2026

Nehemiah 4:19-20 NLT
19 Then I explained to the nobles and officials and all the people, "The work is very spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. 20 When you hear the blast of the trumpet, rush to wherever it is sounding. Then our God will fight for us!"

In many homes, we have smoke detectors, locks, and other security measures that we hope we will never have to use. We don't install them because we want an emergency to occur, but because we know it is better to be prepared than to discover, too late, what we should have done.

And although we dedicate time and resources to protecting our homes from potential dangers, we do not always show the same willingness to prepare for the difficulties that may affect our family relationships.

Often, we wait until a crisis arises before we start thinking about what needs to change. We seek to improve our communication only when arguments have become constant. We try to restore trust when a relationship has already been deeply damaged. Or, we begin to pay attention to our children only when we discover they are going through a difficult situation.

While we cannot always anticipate what will happen, we can certainly develop habits and make decisions that strengthen our homes.

In Nehemiah 4, we find a detail that could easily be overlooked. The workers were spread out along the wall of Jerusalem. The project was extensive, and many were far apart from one another.

For this reason, Nehemiah established a signal: whenever they heard the sound of the trumpet, they were to gather at the location where the danger needed to be faced.

He did not wait for an attack to begin before deciding how to respond; he prepared in advance.

There is something beautiful in the words he spoke to them—Nehemiah 4:20 NLT, *"Then our God will fight for us!"* Nehemiah trusted in God, but that trust did not lead him to neglect his own responsibilities.

He prayed, organized the people, and put measures in place to protect the city. **His trust in God did not replace preparation; rather, it gave it purpose and direction.**

This principle can also transform the way we care for our families.

A married couple, for instance, can decide that—even in the midst of a disagreement—they will avoid insults and humiliating language. Parents can strive to ensure their children find in them a safe place to express their concerns.

A family can set aside time to talk, pray, and strengthen their relationships before major difficulties arise.

And when a situation exceeds our ability to resolve it, we can humbly acknowledge that we need help.

Proverbs 15:22 NIV, *"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."* Sometimes we believe that asking for guidance is a sign of weakness. But wisdom also consists of recognizing that we do not have all the answers.

God can guide us through His Word and through the counsel of mature, qualified people.

Preparing our home does not mean living in constant expectation of the worst. It means valuing our family so highly that we choose to care for it even when everything seems to be going well.

Because **there are decisions that can prevent wounds that would be much harder to heal later on.** Let us not wait for the alarm to sound before we begin to strengthen what God has entrusted to us.

REMEMBER

WISDOM TEACHES US TO STRENGTHEN, TODAY, THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE WILL NEED TO NURTURE DURING DIFFICULT TIMES.

THINK
What habit, agreement, or decision have you been putting off—one that could help strengthen your home before you face a new challenge?

APPLY
Choose one concrete step to strengthen your family. This could be setting aside a weekly time to talk, agreeing on how to handle disagreements, or seeking guidance regarding an unresolved issue. Make sure it is a simple, realistic decision that you can sustain over time.

PRAY
Beloved Father, thank You because Your Word teaches me to live with prudence. Forgive me for the times I have neglected important matters, thinking there would always be time to address them later. Grant me wisdom to make good decisions, humility to receive counsel, and perseverance to strengthen our relationships. Help us build a home characterized by love, respect, trust, and a firm faith in You. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

DAY 6: They Prayed and Acted

October 31, 2026

Nehemiah 4:9 NLT
But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.

There are times when we wish that family problems could be resolved as easily as flipping a light switch.

We wish that a single conversation were enough to heal a wound, that an apology could immediately erase the consequences of our mistakes, or that a prayer could make all our worries vanish.

And while we know that God has the power to work in extraordinary ways, we also discover that His work in our lives often requires a process involving patience, obedience, and perseverance.

Not all relationships are restored overnight.
Not all problems find an immediate solution.
And not all circumstances change the moment we wish they would.

But that does not mean we should simply sit by and do nothing.

In Nehemiah 4, we find a response that encapsulates one of the most important lessons for this week. When the people learned that their enemies were planning to attack Jerusalem, Scripture says Nehemiah 4:9 NLT, "But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night..."

What a simple yet profound statement! **They prayed, and they took action.**

They acknowledged their need for the Lord's help, while also recognizing their own responsibilities. They did not attempt to face the danger relying solely on their own strength, nor did they use prayer as an excuse to remain idle. Their trust in God was reflected in their actions.

This is a lesson we need to bring into our own homes.

We can pray for God to restore a relationship, but we must also be willing to acknowledge our own mistakes.

We can ask Him to bring peace to our family, but we must also learn to be careful with our words.

We can cry out to God on behalf of our children, but we must also dedicate time to them, listen to them, and walk alongside them with love.

And we can ask the Lord to protect our home, while simultaneously making wise decisions to care for what He has entrusted to us.

James 1:22 NLT, *"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves."*

Because faith does not just transform what we believe; it must also transform the way we live.

Perhaps, over the course of this week, you have identified situations that require attention.

And while we do our part, we can rest in the grace and power of Jesus Christ. He not only shows us how we ought to live; He also offers us forgiveness when we fail and strengthens us to begin again.

We do not know what challenges our families might face tomorrow. But today, we can decide not to neglect what God has entrusted to us.

Because a home is not protected merely by our claims of love, but by the decisions we make to care for it.

Place your home in the Lord's hands. And with His help, begin to do your part.

REMEMBER

PLACE YOUR HOME IN GOD'S HANDS AND DO YOUR PART TO PROTECT IT.

THINK
After reflecting this week, what is the most important decision you need to make to better care for your home?

APPLY
Before the day ends, write down one concrete decision you will put into practice over the coming week. Make sure it is something specific that depends on you. Then, take a moment to pray for your family and ask the Lord for the strength needed to persevere in that decision.

PRAY
Lord Jesus, today I place my home in Your hands. Thank You for reminding me how valuable the people You have placed in my life truly are. Forgive me for my mistakes, my oversights, and the times I have failed to care for what You have entrusted to me. Grant me the wisdom to recognize what needs to change and the courage to take steps of obedience. Help me not to settle for mere good intentions, but to demonstrate my love through decisions that honor Your name. Strengthen our relationships, guide our steps, and teach us to trust in You more each day. Amen.