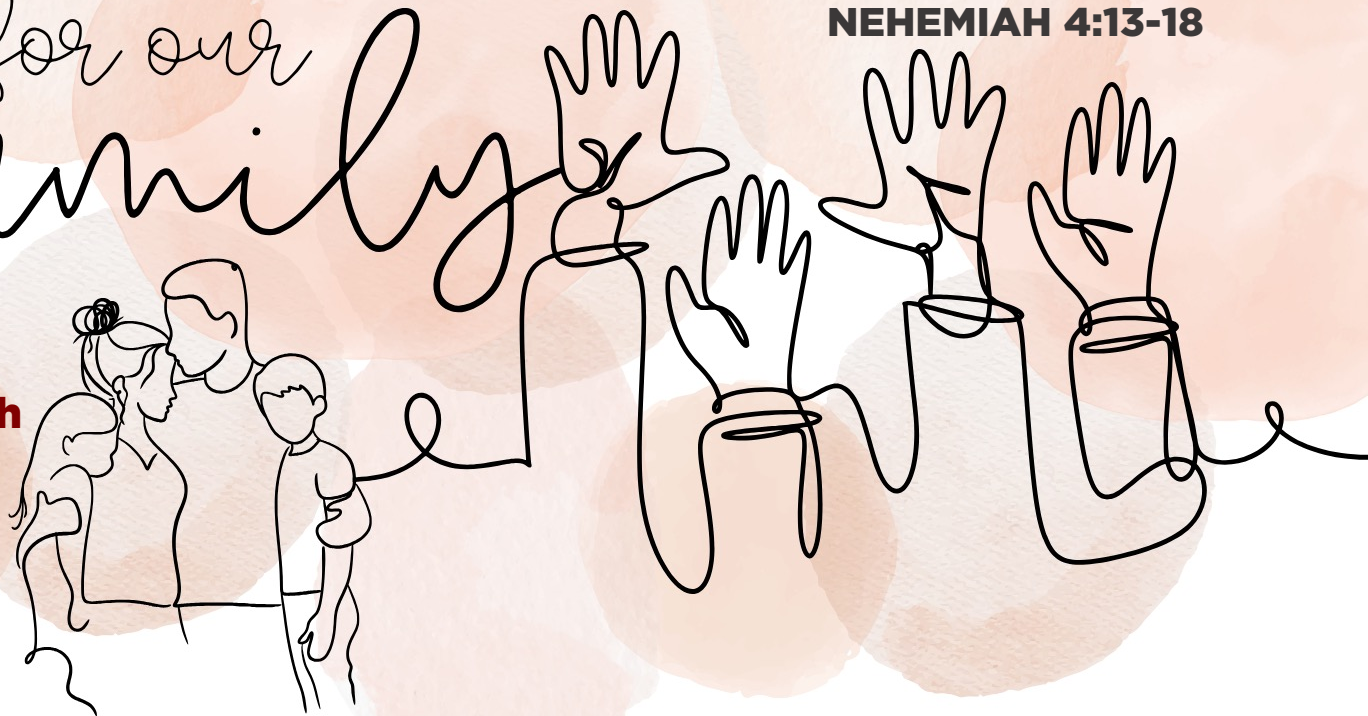


CONTENDING

for our
family

NEHEMIAH 4:13-18

Edr Chris Koh
2 March 2025



A close-up photograph of a person's hands gently placing a small green seedling into the soil. The hands are cupped, holding the seedling by its base. The soil is dark brown and appears moist. In the background, there is a blurred green field under bright, warm light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. A large green circle on the right side of the image contains white text.

**What seed do
you want
to sow
intentionally
in 2025?**



A close-up photograph of a person's hands gently placing a small green seedling into the soil. The hands are cupped, holding a mound of brown earth around the base of the plant. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green field under bright, warm light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is one of care, growth, and nurturing.

**The family
is an area
of focus that
we should be
contending
for this
year.**





**I WATCHED
AND
I PRAYED**

BUT I WONDER WHAT ELSE I CAN DO.

The Bible showed us that family issues were there since the beginning of time.



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were there since the beginning of time.**

❖ Cain murdered his brother Abel



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- ❖ **Cain murdered his brother Abel**
- ❖ **Isaac and Ismael's conflicts stemmed from the jealousy between two wives of Abraham**



The Bible showed us that family issues were there since the beginning of time.

- ❖ **Cain murdered his brother Abel**
- ❖ **Isaac and Ismael's conflicts stemmed from the jealousy between two wives of Abraham**
- ❖ **Jacob and Esau were brothers who quarrelled over birthrights and inheritance**



**We can
do better**
because
the family is God's design.



**We must accept
that having
family-related
issues are common
and happen
often in life**





I REFUSED
TO ACCEPT THAT WE CANNOT DO
ANYTHING ABOUT THESE ISSUES

GOD

**can work on our
behalf when we cry
out to Him.**

NEHEMIAH 4:13-18

13 Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.

NEHEMIAH 4:13-18

14 After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

NEHEMIAH 4:13-18

15 When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work. 16 From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armour. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah

NEHEMIAH 4:13-18

¹⁷ who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, ¹⁸ and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

1. Respond to God's call

- **Nehemiah was called by God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.**



1. Respond to God's call

- **Nehemiah was called by God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.**
- **The call came through a piece of news that caused a burden to come upon his heart.**



1. Respond to God's call

- **The call of God can come in the form of a burden.**



1. Respond to God's call

- **The call of God can come in the form of a burden.**
- **God can use anyone who chooses to respond to His call.**



1. Respond to God's call

- **The Lord can place a new or increased burden on us in a particular season because He wants to work in us to address those issues.**



1. Respond to God's call

- **The first action to take is to mourn, fast, pray and ask God to work on our behalf.**



2. Inspect the Broken Walls

- **On arrival at Jerusalem, Nehemiah went immediately to inspect the walls to find out where the gaps were and the weakest links.**

2. Inspect the Broken Walls

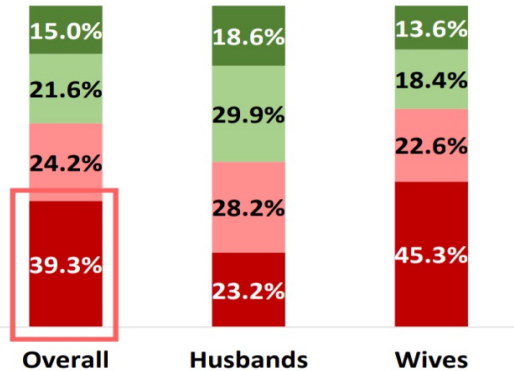
- When was the last time we inspected the walls of our family relationships?**

2. Inspect the Broken Walls

- For many of us, we cannot really see the gaps because we have gotten used to them.**

Marriage

Couple Satisfaction Index



■ 18 to 21
■ 14 to 17
■ 10 to 13
■ 0 to 9

Married adults who score
>13.5 tend to have a **lower**
risk of marital distress



Married adults who score
<13.5 tend to have a **higher**
risk of marital distress

32%

feel that conversations
are “lacking” in their
marriage

26%

feel “detached from”
their spouse

Celebrate Marriage Quiz 2021



❖ The chart shows that 23.2% of husbands scored below whereas 45.3% of wives scored below 9.

2. Inspect the Broken Walls

- The generation between parents and children are timeless because every generation faces that as a challenge.**

2. Inspect the Broken Walls

- **The generation between parents and children are timeless because every generation faces that as a challenge.**
- **The situation has become worse because it has become more and more difficult to understand the younger generations.**

2. Inspect the Broken Walls

- If we cannot appreciate the beauty, the opportunities and the excitement of their digitalised world, then how can we enter to do life with them?**

2. Inspect the Broken Walls

- **If we cannot appreciate the beauty, the opportunities and the excitement of their digitalised world, then how can we enter to do life with them?**
- **If we are clueless about the demands, the pitfalls and the stresses of their universe, then how do we support them?**

2. Inspect the Broken Walls

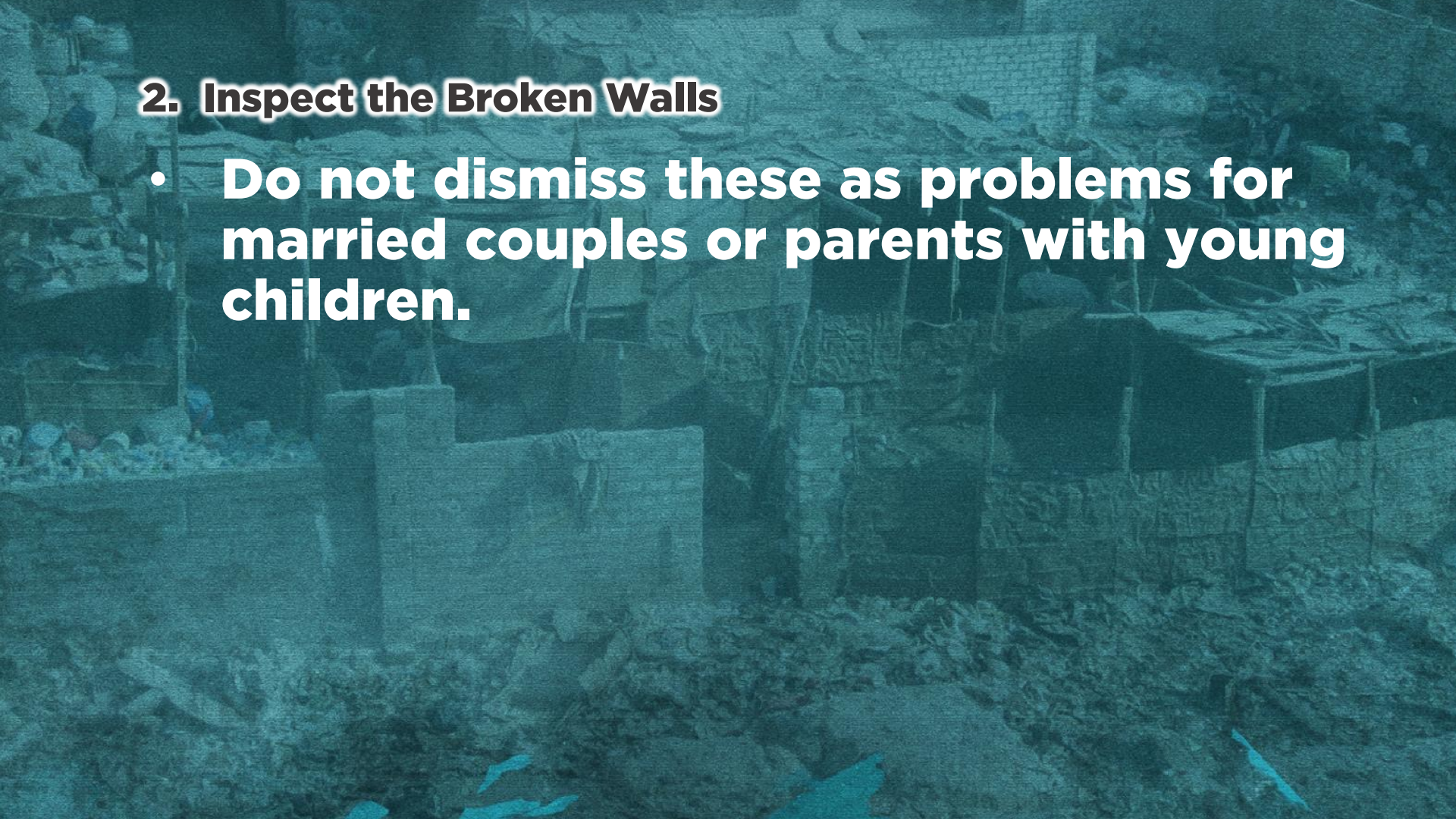
- Channel News Asia reported in September last year that one in three youths and young people, age 15 to 35 is experiencing severe or extremely severe symptoms of depression, anxiety or stress.**

2. Inspect the Broken Walls

- If we cannot understand the younger generation, then how can we provide support and protect our youths and young people in our family?**

2. Inspect the Broken Walls

- Do not dismiss these as problems for married couples or parents with young children.**



2. Inspect the Broken Walls

- **Do not dismiss these as problems for married couples or parents with young children.**
- **Gaps exist in our relationships with the young adults and our elderly parents, whether you are married or not.**

2. Inspect the Broken Walls

- **Do not dismiss these as problems for married couples or parents with young children.**
- **Gaps exist in our relationships with the young adults and our elderly parents, whether you are married or not.**
- **All of us has to play our part to inspect the walls to know the condition of our families.**

3. Realise We have an Enemy

- **We are at war, but most of us are not aware of it.**



3. Realise We have an Enemy

- **We are at war, but most of us are not aware of it.**
- **The devil's mission is to steal, kill and destroy so that we cannot enjoy the abundant life through the family.**



3. Realise We have an Enemy

- **His ways are through sowing division and discontentment.**



3. Realise We have an Enemy

- **His ways are through sowing division and discontentment.**
- **One of his strategies is through distraction, primarily through our mobile devices.**



3. Realise We have an Enemy

- **If you think you can multitask and concurrently build good quality relationships, then the devil has succeeded in deceiving you.**



3. Realise We have an Enemy

- **If you think you can multitask and concurrently build good quality relationships, then the devil has succeeded in deceiving you.**
- **Good relationships cannot be built when you are not giving focused attention.**



3. Realise We have an Enemy

- If we know that we are in a real war and physical harm is imminent, you will do all you can to protect your family to ensure their safety.**



4. Build with One Hand and Fight with the Other



NEHEMIAH 4:17

“... Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other...”

4. Build with One Hand and Fight with the Other

- **Do not just focus on building a good life materially.**
- **You must take proactive steps to rebuild the walls.**



4. Build with One Hand and Fight with the Other

- **Do not just focus on building a good life materially.**
- **You must take proactive steps to rebuild the walls.**
- **Do all you can to cover the gaps and to strengthen your family.**



4. Build with One Hand and Fight with the Other

- You have an enemy, you must take up your weapons to fight for your family.**



2 CORINTHIANS 10:4

4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

4. Build with One Hand and Fight with the Other

To engage in spiritual warfare, we must:

- **Study and apply scriptures**
- **Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit**
- **Pray**



4. Build with One Hand and Fight with the Other

- **When you are building proactively and fighting in prayer wholeheartedly then you are truly contending for your family.**



5. Remember the Lord

- **Nehemiah challenged the people to remember the Lord who is great and awesome.**



5. Remember the Lord

- **God called, God supplied the resources, and God provided the know how to Nehemiah and the Jews.**



5. Remember the Lord

- **God called, God supplied the resources, and God provided the know how to Nehemiah and the Jews.**
- **And when the people willingly obeyed, God created the miracle.**



NEHEMIAH 4:14

“Don’t be afraid. Remember your Lord Jesus who is great and awesome, remember that he is with you, and he is for you. Then fight for your families, fight for sons, fight for your daughters, fight for your wife and fight for your home.”

Conclusion

