

NEHEMIAH



Week 4 Discipleship Study Questions



Nehemiah

Each one of us has a good work to do. We may not see it yet, but it's often right there in front of our eyes. For Nehemiah, it was a crumbled wall. For you, it could be an injustice in the world, or a need you see what no one else does. During this series, we will learn how Nehemiah responded to his own calling and learn how we can change our own world just by leaning into the unique calling that God has put in front of each of us.

This six-week series will take a closer look at the good work God called Nehemiah to do and show us how his story can be an example in our own lives. God has called us all to a good work in our world, in our neighborhood, or in our family. This series will challenge us to find our purpose, understand our opposition, and give us the tools and encouragement to live out our calling.

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-Talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

Background: Chapter 4 ended on a high note, with the men of Israel working with their tools in one hand and a sword in the other. Nehemiah led them through the opposition of Tobiah and Sanballat. Now the Israelites face opposition of a different kind – financial hardships and strife that comes from within. Nehemiah again demonstrates exceptional leadership as he shows the people a godly way through their situation.

Read: Nehemiah 5

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

Digging Deeper:

What problem do the people bring to Nehemiah?

How does Nehemiah respond to this news both emotionally and practically?

How do the people respond to Nehemiah? What did Nehemiah do to ensure they followed through?

What sacrifices did Nehemiah make as a leader? What motivated him to make these sacrifices?

What qualities of a good leader does Nehemiah possess? Why are these qualities especially important in a church setting?

End this time with a prayer.

Heavenly Father, we are surrounded by opposition on all sides, but sometimes that opposition comes from those who are close to us. Give us wisdom and discernment as we face our enemies, but also as we look within ourselves to see our own sins. Give us the courage to name the injustices we see and a heart to seek you in prayer about how we can help. May we be inspired by Nehemiah's example and seek the good of others above our own good. In Jesus' name, Amen.