

Nehemiah: Rebuilders

Lifegroup Resources – Autumn term 2021

This series explores the theme of 'Re-building' from the book of Nehemiah. It considers how, as we emerge from lockdown, we might learn from Nehemiah's approach to re-building – both in our own lives, our family lives and our church life.

Setting the scene

To familiarise your group with Nehemiah – you might like to watch this Bible Project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkETkRv9tG8>

And/or send your group this background pdf to read:

https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/content/bible_book_club/book_downloads/nehemiah.pdf

Week 1 – Pray First!

Read Nehemiah 1.

1. What does Nehemiah do when he hears Hanani's report?
2. What role do you think emotion has in prayer?
3. Describe your reflexive response when challenges enter your life.
4. How do you see different elements of prayer being used by Nehemiah? Eg. Adoration/Confession/Thanksgiving/Supplication. Which of these do you find hardest/easiest?
5. How did Nehemiah's prayer and fasting prepare him for action?
6. What is the connection between prayer and obedience?

Into this week: *Use what you have learned from Nehemiah's prayer to write a prayer about an area of challenge you are facing.*

Week 2 - Take risks!

Read Nehemiah 2.

1. What evidence is there in the text of Nehemiah having a well-thought through plan?
2. Why do you think Nehemiah appears so confident in v.17-20?
3. What do you understand as the connection between Nehemiah's prayers in chapter 1 and his confidence in chapter 2? Do you see conflicts between being planned and depending on the Holy Spirit?
4. Can you share examples of times when praying about something has changed your course of action? Perhaps enabling you to take more risks?
5. How might Nehemiah's example of praying, planning and boldness help you to take risks?

Into this week: *Consider a situation in your life that requires action of some sort, share with a friend or bullet point a plan for your next steps.*

Week 3 - Do it together!

Read Nehemiah 3.

1. Who are the major groups or individuals who give themselves to the rebuilding of the wall?
2. What seems to be the motivation for people to get involved?
3. How does your church utilize members in its work? How might it do this more?
4. Can you share examples of where you have served as part of a church team – what have you enjoyed about this? What have you found difficult?
5. Do you feel motivated to serve in the church like the people in Nehemiah 3? If not, what are some of the barriers to this for you?
6. One commentator has said – ‘*Nehemiah saw opportunity where others saw rubble*’. Do you have a tendency to see metaphorical rubble rather than opportunity, for instance - procrastination, discouragement, fear, unbelief, boredom. What rubble might you need to clear away before you can get to the task God has given you?

Into the week: *Dig deeper into the chapter, looking at this article about the background/meaning of the gates: <https://jesusplusnothing.com/series/post/nehem3>*

Week 4 – Opposed!

Read Nehemiah 4.

1. How does Nehemiah respond to the forms of opposition he faces?
2. How do you think the attitude of people in v6. affected their work?
3. What was Nehemiah trusting in to get the work done? How did he encourage people?
4. What tends to be your response to opposition?
5. Hurtful words often stifles momentum. Have you been in a situation where was is the case? What helped you overcome ‘momentum-stifling’ words?
6. Nehemiah encourages the people to push on with re-building. How much of an encourager are you? How practically might you do this more?
7. Why is it important for Christians to maintain a healthy balance of praying and taking personal action?

Into the week: *Is there opposition you have faced which has discouraged you? Consider talking to someone about this and journal how you might trust God for your next steps. Share with a friend if you can.*

Week 5 – Seek justice!

Read Nehemiah 5.

1. Who seems to be responsible for the iniquity Nehemiah identifies? What does he do about it?
2. When have you seen someone, perhaps a leader, sacrifice a privilege to live according to God’s values?
3. Who are the widows, strangers and orphans in our society?
4. Is there a difference between a human sense of justice and God’s justice?

5. Nehemiah tried to live out what he asked of the people – how did he model the things he was calling others to do?
6. Are there areas in your life where you could more consistently practice your values? Or put another way – ‘practice what you preach’? What are the barriers to this?

Into the week: *Drop a note or message to someone in your life who has modelled integrity and consistent living. Encourage them about how this has impacted you.*

Week 6 – Confession and Dedication

Read Nehemiah 9.

1. How do the people confess? How would you describe their prayers?
2. There is a lot of remembering this chapter. What role does this play in confession and repentance?
3. What part does confession play in your Christian life?

Read Nehemiah 12:27-end.

4. What happens in this part of the chapter, especially from v.31 onwards?
5. What was the attitude of the people? Why were they so joyful and how did they express this?
6. What does v.46 suggest about the organisation of our worship?
7. Is your church good at celebrating? Or dedicating? Are there ways in which we could do this more?

Into the week: *Spend some time in celebration this week – what is it that you would like to thank God for specifically? Is there anything in your life that you would like to dedicate to Him?*