

Discussion Guide

[For Small Groups]

Icebreaker

1. Share one or two hi-lights of your week.
2. Share one thing that you wish had not happened to you this week.
3. Share with the group something that you feel God has been speaking to you this week.

Group Discussion

1. **Read Nehemiah 1:2-5.**
Nehemiah's heart was breaking because of the condition of his people.
 - a. Who is your heart breaking for?
 - b. What are you doing to change the condition of that person or people?
2. **Read Proverbs 28:20 & Luke 16:10.**
These scriptures talk about being faithful in our lives to the task that is before us.
 - a. Discuss ways that you have been faithful in your job or your day-to-day duties.
 - b. How has that made a difference in your life or the life of the people around you?
 - c. How do prayer, fasting, and Bible reading help us to stay faithful to the things that we need to do every day?
3. **Read Nehemiah 2:11-20.**
Pastor Sam talked about how Nehemiah needed to wait for the right time to share his vision.
 - a. Have you ever shared a vision with someone at the wrong time?
 - b. What was the reaction to your vision when shared at the wrong time?
 - c. Share how that affected the vision being carried out?Nehemiah 3 talks about how everyone was involved in building the wall.
 - a. How are you involved in serving in the church?
 - b. If you are not involved, what is keeping you from serving?
 - c. Brainstorm ways that you as a group could serve in the church or in other areas.
4. **Read Nehemiah 4.**
This chapter talks about the opposition that Nehemiah and the people of Israel had to face as they built the wall.
 - a. What kind of opposition have you had to face as you pursued a vision that you had?
 - b. How did you overcome that opposition?
 - c. Discuss ways that as a group you can support each other as we live out the vision that God has for each of our lives.

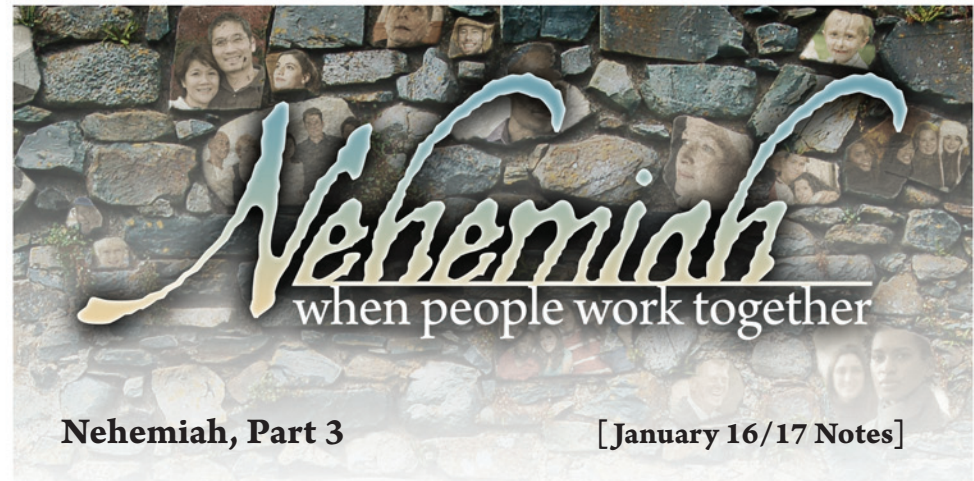
Prayer Points

1. Pray for our congregation as we continue the 40-day fast.
2. Pray that God would help us to overcome opposition that we may face as we strive to fulfill that vision that God has for us, individually and as a church.
3. Pray that God will show us all ways to be involved in serving the Body of Christ and those around us.

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Nehemiah, Part 3

[January 16/17 Notes]

Proverbs 29:18 (NKJ), Proverbs 29:18 (NAS), Proverbs 29:18 (Moffatt)

1. Vision brings order into our lives.
2. Vision brings a guiding hand into our lives.
3. Vision brings a sense of purpose into our lives.
4. We cannot allow disappointment to stop our vision.

John 10:10 (NKJ)

5. A vision planted deep in the heart of a person cannot be easily stolen.

Nehemiah 1:2-5 (NKJ)

6. Nehemiah's heart was broken for the condition of people's lives.
7. Nehemiah spent many days in prayer and fasting which put the vision securely in his heart.

Nehemiah 1:11 (NKJ)

8. Work and serve faithfully right where you are now.

Proverbs 28:20 (NKJ), Luke 16:10 (NKJ)

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Nehemiah, Part 3

[Notes, Continued]

9. Build the discipline of prayer, fasting, and bible reading into your life.
10. Seeking God brings favor and opens doors.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJ), Nehemiah 2:11-20 (NKJ)

11. Be patient for the right time to share your vision with others.
12. Waiting patiently before sharing a vision builds courage to answer critics.

Habakkuk 2:3 (NKJ)

13. A deeply planted vision demands change and will stretch our faith.

Nehemiah 3:5, 20 (NLT), Nehemiah 4:1-15 (NKJ)

14. Opposition to a vision can be brutal and relentless.
15. We must keep our eyes on reviving burned and charred lives.
16. We must answer opposition from hearts of prayer.

Nehemiah 4:20 (NKJ)

17. We move ahead with vision in spite of opposition in obedience to God.

II Corinthians 7:4-6 (NKJ)

18. The only thing worse than being blind, is having sight but no vision.

Bible Study

[Personal Response]

Pastor Sam challenged us this week to press into the vision in our hearts. He encouraged each of us to be involved at Worship Center if this is our home church, especially as we get closer to welcoming many new people to our church. Where would you like to get involved? Consider the following areas to serve at WC:

- **Children's Ministry**
- **Traffic**
- **Common Grounds**
- **Ushers**
- **Greeters**
- **Wednesday Night Volunteers**
- **Security**
- **Youth Ministry**

If you'd like to serve in the church in these or other areas, contact Anita in the church office at anitah@worshipcenter.org.

To fulfill the vision that God has for us, we need to be intentional in pursuing God. The following is available to us at WC to help us grow spiritually and relationally:

- **Alpha**
- **Small Groups**
- **ManZone**
- **Support Groups**
- **180 Middle School**
- **Worship Center Classes**
- **180 High School**
- **WOW or SOS Ladies Bible Study**
- **PrimeTime**
- **Young Adult/Young Married**
- **Singles**

If you'd like to get involved with one or more of these ministries, pick up a brochure in the lobby, look online at worshipcenter.org, or contact the church office at 656.4271 for more information.

This week, be intentional to continue your Bible reading. Consider reading along with Pastor Sam

- **Sunday** – Psalm 17, Proverbs 17, Matthew 17, Acts 17, 1 Corinthians 1
- **Monday** – Psalm 18, Proverbs 18, Matthew 18, Acts 18, 1 Corinthians 2
- **Tuesday** – Psalm 19, Proverbs 19, Matthew 19, Acts 19, 1 Corinthians 3
- **Wednesday** – Psalm 20, Proverbs 20, Matthew 20, Acts 20, 1 Corinthians 4
- **Thursday** – Psalm 21, Proverbs 21, Matthew 21, Acts 21, 1 Corinthians 5
- **Friday** – Psalm 22, Proverbs 22, Matthew 22, Acts 22, 1 Corinthians 6
- **Saturday** – Psalm 23, Proverbs 23, Matthew 23, Acts 23, 1 Corinthians 7

Purpose of our time of fasting and prayer points:

1. A time of personal spiritual renewal – going deeper with God.
2. A time of congregational consecration to the next season of ministry for Worship Center.
3. A time of thankful reflecting on the last 33 years.
4. A time of renewed focus on reaching those without Jesus.
5. A time of believing together for the provision for the new facility.
6. A time to receive the new facility to be used for the purposes of God.

Send comments or questions to Pastor Joe at joec@worshipcenter.org.