

Discussion Guide

[For Small Groups]

Icebreaker

1. Share one major way your life is different with God than if you didn't know Him?
2. What concerns you most when you think about your future?

Group Discussion

As a group exercise, plan to do a Bible study. Everyone will need paper and pen. Begin by asking the Holy Spirit to speak in a clear way through God's Word.

Begin by reading out loud Nehemiah Chapter 8 one time as a group.

Get ready to go through a Bible study called "The Five Ps". This study will happen individually and silently. After you complete the study, you'll share with the group what God showed you. Here is how it works:

1. On a blank piece of paper, make 5 columns with the following headings:
 - a. Principle of Conduct
 - b. Put Another Way
 - c. Personal Struggle
 - d. Profit or Loss Anticipated
 - e. Plan of Action
2. Principle of Conduct – In this column, write one verse from Nehemiah 8 that states a life principle that applies to you.
3. Put Another Way – In this column, briefly explain and restate the verse in your own words.
4. Personal Struggle – How is this principle connected to the problems/challenges you personally face today? Write down key areas where you can begin to apply it in your own life.
5. Profit or Loss Anticipated – It is wise to consider the costs of following God, versus the cost of not following Him. In this column, list all the blessings that you can think of that will come from obedience to this principle. Also, list all the possible consequences of disobedience. Be exhaustive and take your time here. The more you can think of the value of following God's guidelines, the better motivated you will be to act upon them.
6. Plan of Action – When it comes to obeying God's Word, it's not the thought that counts. Good intentions are great, but only as we begin applying the Scriptures to our lives will we begin to be changed by them. Use this column to develop your own personal plan of action. Set deadlines for yourself, and if you need accountability, ask someone in you group to help you stick to the plan.

After about 30 minutes of personal study, come back together as a group. Spend time sharing as a group what God showed you and how you plan to follow-up.

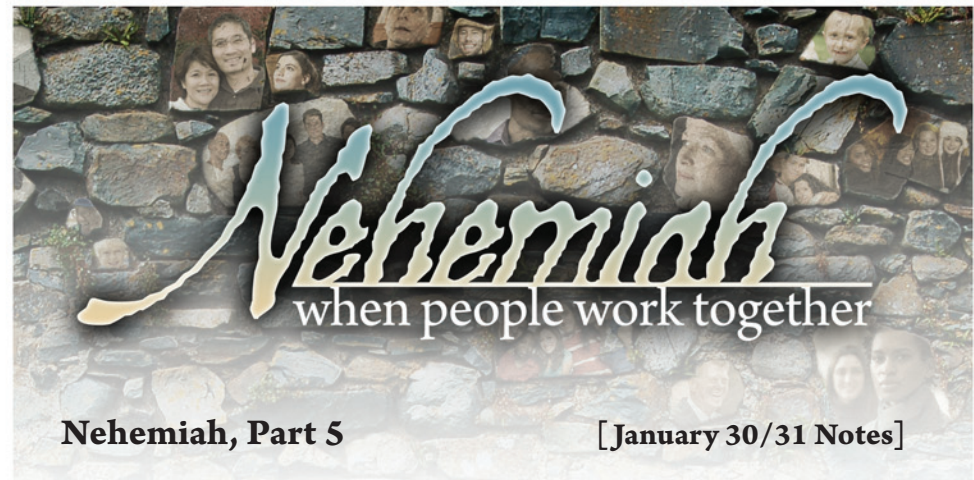
Prayer Points

1. Pray for our congregation as we continue the 40-day fast.
2. Pray that God would help us be intentional to grow and apply His Word.
3. Pray for each other – for His strength to become everything He calls us to be.

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Nehemiah, Part 5

[January 30/31 Notes]

When People Work Together

Nehemiah 6 (NIV)

1. Nehemiah did not give in to fear or the tricks of his enemies.
2. We also have an enemy.

John 10:10 (NIV)

Nehemiah 6:8-9 (NIV)

Nehemiah 6:15-16 (NIV)

Nehemiah 7 (NIV)

It is important that we really understand what happened here. This wasn't just a little wall that a couple of guys built in their spare time.

3. Nehemiah's leadership in this project restored the people's zeal for the Word of God and the worship of God.
4. Chapter 8 summed up in 3 words: Hearing, Understanding, and Desire. Nehemiah built with a plan.

We have a plan for our building. When we have a question, we go to the prints.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

[Continued next page...]



Nehemiah, Part 4

[Notes, Continued]

5. What role does the Word of God have in our lives?

“Absence diminishes mediocre passions and increases great ones, as the wind extinguishes candles and fans fires.” – Francois de La Rochefoucauld

6. What is our passion for the Word?

Psalms 119 (NIV)

It's best to do what God says.

7. God's will is His Word.

“God, what is it? What are you trying to tell me? You ask for me to listen, I give you my ear. But then there's nothing when I try to hear.”

Proverbs 29:18 (NIV)

“When a person reads or listens to the Word of God {which is God's law} something begins to happen in their spirit – their spirit begins to come alive and live...”
– Pastor Sam

1 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Bible Study

[Personal Response]

This week, Pastor Tim encouraged us to be intentional and build a desire for God's Word into our lives. Many of us made goals for 2010 regarding Bible reading. How are you doing in reaching your goals? Are you on target? If not, what changes do you have to make to help you be successful?

A good friend of mine once said, “Discipline leads to desire.” Even if you don't always desire the Word of God, God will bless you if you discipline yourself to read it regularly. Consider for a moment what good things you may be missing if you don't regularly read God's Word? How could this affect your life, your family's life, or those that you're closest to? How could it affect your future?

Desiring God is what we were made to do. Yet things in this world can distract us from Jesus. Spend a few moments in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you anything that is holding back your desire for God. What can you eliminate this week to make more room for God in your life?

Weekly Bible Reading

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

- **Sunday** – Psalm 31, Proverbs 31, Mark 3, Acts 3, 1 Corinthians 15
- **Monday** – Psalm 32, Proverbs 1, Mark 4, Acts 4, 1 Corinthians 16
- **Tuesday** – Psalm 33, Proverbs 2, Mark 5, Acts 5, 2 Corinthians 1
- **Wednesday** – Psalm 34, Proverbs 3, Mark 6, Acts 6, 2 Corinthians 2
- **Thursday** – Psalm 35, Proverbs 4, Mark 7, Acts 7, 2 Corinthians 3
- **Friday** – Psalm 36, Proverbs 5, Mark 8, Acts 8, 2 Corinthians 4
- **Saturday** – Psalm 37, Proverbs 6, Mark 9, Acts 9, 2 Corinthians 5

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.