

Discussion Guide

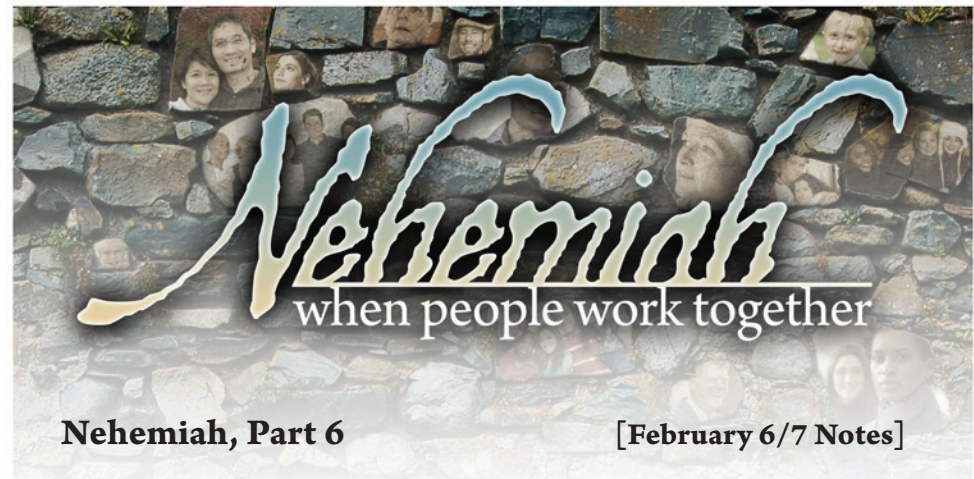
[For Small Groups]

Discussion - Lectio Divina on Hebrews 10:35-39, 11:6

This is a practice of allowing the Word of God to speak to us in a unique way. It has been around for centuries in the Church. For your group time today, we are going to hear what God is saying to us from scriptures that Pastor Sam referred to this weekend from the Book of Hebrews. Here is the plan:

- Have one person read out loud Hebrews 10:35-39 and Hebrews 11:6. As it is read out loud the first time, listen to what God is saying to you about it. Then, someone should read it out loud again. As it is read, listen for a word or phrase that stands out. Then, pause and sit in silence for 1–2 minutes. While in silence, hear and silently repeat to yourself a word that attracts you from the passage. After the silent period, share with the group what God is saying to you. Do not elaborate at this point, just keep it brief. It is okay to pass.
- Now someone else (of the opposite sex, preferably) should read it out loud a third time. This time, ask God where the Word is touching your life today. Another words, how is Jesus touching you or speaking to you about this scripture passage today. After it is read, wait in silence for 2-3 minutes. Then, share with group how the reading touches your life today. It is okay to pass.
- Finally, have someone read the passage one more time. This time, what is Jesus asking you to become or do today or this week? Same drill – after it is read, pause and wait 2–3 minutes, and share what you believe God wants you to do today. It is okay to elaborate as you feel led at this point.

Close your group time by praying for each other, specifically in the area that God is calling you to grow or change the coming week.



Nehemiah, Part 6

[February 6/7 Notes]

Ephesians 2:4-6 (NKJV); Nehemiah 1:2-5 (NKJV)

1. Visions form in the hearts of those whose hearts break over a need they see.
2. Vision is the ability to see things that are invisible.

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

3. Vision is a preferred future which demands change.
4. For a vision to come to reality, someone has to champion the cause.
5. God begins to paint a picture of what could and should be on the canvas of our heart.
6. A vision is a picture in our heart of what could and should be, and goals are the steps of action to get there.
7. It takes faith in God to step toward a vision because there are many unknowns.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

8. Faith is expressing our confidence in the person and character of God.

Luke 9:62 (NKJV)

9. Nehemiah's vision was tested by opposition and distractions.

Hebrews 10:35-39 (NKJV); James 1:2-4 (NKJV)

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Nehemiah, Part 6

[Notes, Continued]

10. Nehemiah stayed focused on the end result which was a finished wall.
- It was about more than the wall.
 - It was about the people – their safety and their security.
 - It was about the salvation and restoration of a people.
 - It was about the broken and charred lives of people.
 - It was about the restoration of God's Word and the worship of God.

If your vision is for a year, plant wheat.

If your vision is for ten years, plant trees.

If your vision is for a lifetime, plant people.

11. It is important to stay the course and see the end results and possibilities of your vision.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NKJV); Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV); Nehemiah 6:15 (NKJV); Nehemiah 8:9-12 (NKJV)

12. Nehemiah's obedience to the vision brought spiritual renewal and restoration to his people.

13. The people came from captivity, distress, and depression to the joy of the Lord which brought them strength.

14. **Romans 14:17 (NKJV)** – Joy brings strength to see a vision accomplished.

Bible Study

[Personal Response]

This week marks the end of our series from the Book of Nehemiah on vision. I personally have been very encouraged through it. I'm stirred up to run hard after the vision God has put in my heart.

It is so much easier to chase our vision with passion when we hear great messages about vision, and are reminded weekly to think about it. Yet when the weekly reminders to "stay the course," to "never come down," to "step out of the boat," or to "persevere through distractions" aren't there, it can be easy to get distracted away from our vision. Consider asking God these questions about what you need to do to stay the course this year:

1. God, what is it in my life that is most likely to distract me from your vision for me?
2. God, how can I build reminders or course adjustments into this coming year that will help me stay the course to reach my vision?
3. Lord Jesus, who are the people in my life that can help me stay the course? In what way should I communicate with them or receive accountability from them to help me reach or work towards my vision for this year?

Finally, I have read or re-read the following books over the last few months that have really encouraged me in my vision. Pick up a copy if you are interested. Let me know if you end up reading one. I'd love to hear your thoughts about it.

- "The Dream Giver" by Bruce Wilkinson
- "In a Pit With a Lion on a Snowy Day" by Mark Batterson,
- "Holy Discontent" by Bill Hybels

Weekly Bible Reading

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

- **Sunday** – Psalm 38, Proverbs 7, Mark 10, Acts 10, 2 Corinthians 6
- **Monday** – Psalm 39, Proverbs 8, Mark 11, Acts 11, 2 Corinthians 7
- **Tuesday** – Psalm 40, Proverbs 9, Mark 12, Acts 12, 2 Corinthians 8
- **Wednesday** – Psalm 41, Proverbs 10, Mark 13, Acts 13, 2 Corinthians 9
- **Thursday** – Psalm 42, Proverbs 11, Mark 14, Acts 14, 2 Corinthians 10
- **Friday** – Psalm 43, Proverbs 12, Mark 15, Acts 15, 2 Corinthians 11
- **Saturday** – Psalm 44, Proverbs 13, Mark 16, Acts 16, 2 Corinthians 12

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.