

“My Mission to Our Mission”

Sticks & Stones week #2

INTRODUCTION

Nehemiah had a call on his life to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Even though he was an ordinary man he recognized that it was Almighty God who would enable him to do the work to which he was called. But it took more than a broken heart to get the job done. This study looks at how Nehemiah moved from knowing what he should do, to defining what he wanted to do and gathering others to join in his mission. We will see that God invites us to join Him in the hope of full restoration no matter the challenges, if we trust fully in Him we will see great things accomplished.

Ice Breaker (Optional):

Has there been a cause or mission that you have joined with others to accomplish?

Study Questions (45 MIN)

Moving Beyond Should

Q1. Read Nehemiah 2:4-8

Nehemiah knew God had called him and was guiding him into action (Ne 1:11). Perhaps you have felt a similar stirring in your heart over something God has called you to do. Taking the first step is not always easy. What are some of the things that can prevent us from taking that first step? In Nehemiah 2:4 the king asks Nehemiah directly “What is it you want?” What did Nehemiah reply? It was after Nehemiah expressed the details of his request that the king was moved to provide support. What did the extent of his request for a leave of absence, safe passage, and resources, reveal about the level of trust he had in God?

What’s your Next Step?

Q2. Read Nehemiah 2:11-18; Luke 14:28

Before he approached anyone else with his plans, Nehemiah inspected the city. What did Jesus warn us about starting a mission without this important first step? (See Luke 14:28) Once he knew the extent of the repairs they needed to make, Nehemiah gathered those in the city to give witness to God’s call to action. Why was it important for Nehemiah to tell them about how God’s hand had been on him in his efforts? What are some areas of ministry that God has enabled you to succeed in? If you share this with others, do you expect that they might be inspired to join with you?

The Hope of Full Restoration

Q3. Read Nehemiah 3; Habakkuk 2:3

In Nehemiah chapter 3 we find a list of those who joined in the rebuilding of the wall and where they did their work. What were some of the ordinary positions and occupations of those working on the wall? Why weren’t the nobles of Tekoa part of the rebuilding? (Ne 3:5) What would you say is the most important factor for someone to be used for God’s purpose?

Many of those rebuilding the wall had waited patiently during their captivity to see God’s promise of restoration fulfilled. (Habakkuk 2:3) Have you seen a promise of God fulfilled in your life after a long time of patiently praying and trusting God? Is there something you are still patiently praying over that you would like to share with your group? Let Nehemiah inspire you to come along side one another to pursue something with eternal value.

Wrap-Up

Nehemiah knew that the walls of Jerusalem had to be rebuilt, and he took the steps necessary to follow God’s call. After seeking God, he boldly requested what he needed from the king, and God was gracious to provide it. Then after inspecting the damage thoroughly he enlisting others by bearing witness to God’s hand on the mission. When the people’s hearts were devoted to joining God’s cause, they were used, no matter how ordinary they were, shoulder to shoulder to bring about a full restoration as God had promised. As God calls each of us we can trust that He will also use us if we make ourselves available and fully committed to his mission.

Memory Verse

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace."

Nehemiah 2:17 NIV

Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:

Challenge:

Ask God for the boldness to share with others what you believe God is calling you to do.

Q1

Nehemiah 2:4-8 NIV - 4 The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, 5 and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it." 6 Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. 7 I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? 8 And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

Q2

Nehemiah 2:11-18 NIV - 11 I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days 12 I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. 13 By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. 14 Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; 15 so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. 16 The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work. 17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." 18 I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

Luke 14:28-30 ESV - 28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

Q3

Read Nehemiah chapter 3 in your Bible.

Habakkuk 2:3 ESV - 3 For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end--it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

Prayer Notes cont.
