

SERMON SERIES



NEHEMIAH

RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

STUDY GUIDE • NEHEMIAH 5

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**A HOUSE
DIVIDED AGAINST
ITSELF CANNOT
STAND**

NEHEMIAH 5

WELCOME:
Fixing
Our Focus

Share with the group how greed and selfishness can ruin relationships and communities. Do you see this happening right now? If so, how?

WORSHIP:
Adoring
Our God

Suggested songs:
• Trust and Obey
• 1 John 4:7 & 8

WORD: Understanding the Word

LESSON AIM

1. Members will realize that sin hinders fellowship among believers.
2. Members will have courage to confront a fellow believer of their sin.
3. Members will strive to live godly lives as witnesses of God.

INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapter, we saw how Satan opposed the rebuilding work by using the enemies of Israel. His schemes were thwarted and the Jews were able to continue working on the wall. In this chapter, Satan shifts his attacks. Instead of attacking from the outside, he now attacks from within. He uses the selfishness of some Jews against their brothers in an attempt to hinder the work on the wall. Let's learn how God used Nehemiah to overcome this obstacle.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. What were the reasons why the Jews cried out to Nehemiah? (vv. 1-5)
2. What was Nehemiah's reaction upon hearing the cries of his people? (v. 6)
3. What were the reasons Nehemiah used to confront the Jews who were taking advantage of their brothers? (vv. 8-10) What did God command the Israelites to do in Leviticus 25:35-42?
4. After confronting the Jews, what did Nehemiah command them to do? (v. 11)
5. How did the Jews respond to the outcome of the assembly? (v. 13)
6. How did Nehemiah conduct himself as governor of Judah? (vv. 14-18)
7. What did Nehemiah ask God in his prayer? (v. 19)

WORD: Understanding the Word

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. In chapter 3, we saw how the Jews were working together as one. Why do you think they started to take advantage of one another in this chapter?
2. Do you think that it was right for Nehemiah to become “very angry” when he heard the cries of the Jews? When does anger become sinful?
3. When Nehemiah confronted the Jews of their sin, he reminded them of the Mosaic law. How would you confront a fellow believer with their sin? Is it enough that the brother or sister admit their sin? Why or why not?
4. What should be our attitude when a fellow believer is confronted with their sin and repents from it?
5. Nehemiah set an example for the Jews to follow. He also told them that their obedience to God affects how the surrounding nation treats them. What does this tell you about being obedient to God?
6. Do you think it’s alright to seek a reward from God for obeying him? Why or why not? What does God and Jesus promise in these verses: Deuteronomy 5:33; Joshua 1:7-8; John 14:21-23

WALK: Applying the Word

APPLICATIONS

- CHILDREN -

1. In these verses, we saw how Nehemiah got mad at the people for doing the wrong thing. Nehemiah also said that the best thing to do is to “walk in the fear of our God (v.9).” Take the time to reflect: have you been following what God says in His Word or have you been disobedient lately? After taking the time to reflect, ask God to help you follow what He says in the Bible. Ask the Lord to help you obey even when it is easier to do what is sinful.
2. Was there ever a time in your life when you had to make a difficult decision? For example, you had a choice between telling your teacher that your classmates cheated or staying quiet about it. What can you learn from Nehemiah at the end of verse 15? Why should we do what is right?
3. In our world today, there are many people who are poor and are not able to provide for themselves and their families. During this pandemic, many are without work and are hungry. Take the time to pray for everyone affected by this pandemic and ask the Lord how you can be a blessing to these people in small yet powerful ways.

- YOUTH -

1. In the passage, we see that sin affects the whole community. How can a “private” sin affect your relationship with others? Take time to talk about specific sins that are often perceived to be “harmless” and look at how it affects the way we love others in our community.
2. We know we sin. Yet, we try to avoid even acknowledging that sin. What can you do to confront yourself about your own sin when you give in to temptation rather than try to rationalize your sin away?
3. How can we allow our accountability group or growth group to confront us on our sins? Especially when we know we can become easily defensive?

WALK: Applying the Word

- ADULTS -

1. Often we think it is loving to ignore a family or close friend's sin, but we need to remember that being loving actually is the opposite of that. Love cares enough to confront others with their sin, even when it is awkward. How can we confront our friends or family with sin that we see in them?
2. We can either be living in a way that leads others to sin or leads others to Christ- what can you do to find out what kind of life you are living in your community?
3. How can we use our lives to be a witness for God to our family and relatives?

- COMMUNAL -

1. What sin is prevalent in your specific community or even in your extended family? Take time to pray that your community can break free of that sin.
2. How can you encourage those in your community to be united in focus towards God rather than taking advantage of each other? It sounds like a big task - but what can you do specifically in your community to do so? Even in the smallest way?
3. What keeps you from connecting with your community's identity? Nehemiah realized that he had a part in the community's identity in Jerusalem. Rather than simply pointing fingers at those in sin, he worked with others to deal with it because he knew he had a role in the community. How can you help the identity of your community be one that reflects Christ?

- GLOBAL -

1. What specific area can you pray for the Philippine Church to be a witness for Christ to other countries?
2. In what ways can churches act selfishly towards other churches?
3. How do you think churches from all over the world can work together to advance God's kingdom?



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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