

SERMON SERIES



NEHEMIAH

RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

STUDY GUIDE • NEHEMIAH 11:1-12:26

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THE BEST RESULT OF REVIVAL

THE RETURN OF GOD'S PEOPLE

NEHEMIAH 11:1-12:26

WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

How would you define your comfort zone? What are its limits, and what would it take for you to step out of it?

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- How Great Thou Art
- He Will Hold Me Fast
- Way Maker

WORD: Understanding the Word

LESSON AIM

1. Members will step out of their comfort zones when God calls them to.
2. Members will pray for those whom God called from their comfort zones.
3. Members will live as representatives of God where He places them.

INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapters, we saw how God stirred the hearts of the people back to Himself. They began with a longing to hear and study Scriptures. They immersed themselves in prayer. Their study of Scriptures and prayers led them to renew their covenant with God, to walk in obedience to His commandments. In this chapter, we see the commitment of the leaders and a select few of the people through their relocation from their towns to live in the city of Jerusalem, that it may be repopulated. Let's take a look at how this was done and the implications of staying inside Jerusalem.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. Who were the people who lived in Jerusalem? (v. 11:1a)
2. What did the people do to help repopulate Jerusalem? (v. 11:1b)
3. How did the rest of the people treat those who lived in Jerusalem? (v. 11:2)
4. What groups of people lived in Jerusalem? (vv. 11:3-19)
5. What groups of people lived outside Jerusalem? (vv. 11:20-36)
6. How many generations of priests and Levites were there from the first return of the Jews up to the days of Nehemiah? (vv. 12:1-26)

WORD: Understanding the Word

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. Not all the Jews lived in Jerusalem after the city was rebuilt. Only the leaders and the people who were selected by lots lived there. Why do you think they had to cast lots to determine who would live there?
2. What do you think was the significance of the people blessing those who lived in Jerusalem?

When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, we learned that the people in the surrounding regions were against the welfare of the Jews and Jerusalem. They tried to hinder the rebuilding of the wall and planned on attacking the city to prevent the walls from being rebuilt. The danger of Jerusalem being attacked has not gone away even when the walls have been rebuilt. It was a sacrifice to live in the city. It is putting oneself in danger, and it also meant leaving behind their ancestral home in the surrounding towns. This is perhaps why lots were cast to determine who would live there. Those living outside the city blessed those who were living in it for making that sacrifice.

3. What can we learn from the different groups of people living both inside and outside Jerusalem? Is there a distinction between the two?

There is a mix of people living both inside and outside Jerusalem - the people, priests, Levites, and others. Those living inside Jerusalem were not held more important than those who didn't. Each individual was equally important, as each one has a role to play in the community. Pethahiah, who was living in Persia, was even mentioned in the list. He too, had a role to play.

WORD: Understanding the Word

4. What can we learn from the record of generations of priests and Levites? Has the temple suffered from a lack of people to minister in it since it was rebuilt?

God was faithful to preserve for Himself not only a remnant of people living in Jerusalem, but ministers for the temple as well. In the previous century, when the city was vulnerable to attacks because its walls and gates were burned down, God kept His people safe. God is the one who ensures that there will never be a lack of people or resources to accomplish His will.

WALK: Applying the Word

APPLICATIONS

- CHILDREN -

1. Think of a time when you and your family had to move and settle down in a new place. Describe how you felt about the following:
 - a. Leaving behind close friends that you have made.
 - b. A big, nice, and comfortable home compared to a smaller and cramped place.
 - c. Adjusting in a new place with no friends.
 - d. If it's about moving to a new school, What were the hard things you had to do? How did you get through it? Who helped you?

- YOUTH -

1. What are some of the ways you can step out of your comfort zone as a follower of God placed in your specific social groups where not everyone is necessarily a believer (family, school, gaming circles, *barkadas*, etc.)?
2. Engaging in missions is not limited to missionaries in far-off countries, as even students can participate in God's mission in their schools and organizations. Who are some of your co-believers you can actively partner with in prayer in stepping out of your comfort zones in these schools and organizations?

- ADULTS -

1. Share with the group a time when God called you from your comfort zone. How did you respond? What happened afterward?
2. How can you pray for those whom God called from their comfort zones? What can you do to learn more about missionaries or missions organizations so that you can regularly pray for them?
3. We may be isolated from one another, but we don't have to be disconnected from each other. How can you contribute to the body of Christ where God has placed you?

WALK: Applying the Word

- COMMUNAL -

1. What are the different ways that you, as both a member of your community and as a believer, can contribute to the good of your community?
2. How can GCF, as a community of believers, be a representative of God to the community surrounding it?
3. Give two top “comfort zones” you have now. Why do you think it’s difficult for you to leave those in place of following the call of God?

- GLOBAL -

1. The world is gradually becoming more hostile toward Christian values. It may not be long before Christians will be persecuted globally. How can the book of Nehemiah be a source of encouragement for you?
2. What are some small but concrete ways in which you can step out of your comfort zone to impact the world? It may not be something huge, but God can cause the tiny ripple you make in the water and amplify it as it traverses farther.
3. Have you ever prayed for a family member or an individual who decided to serve God and left the “comforts of their homes”? Share how you help them ease their situations away from home and what are the lessons you’ve learned from them.



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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