

Living in Community

Next Steps Nehemiah 6

OPENING PRAYER:

Holy and good Creator, you are the God who communicates. Thus, the One who wrote upon tablets of stone is the same One who writes the divine word upon my heart. Prepare me to hear, receive and obey your word. May it penetrate deeply and move me to respond to your Spirit. Amen.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the sermon this week?
- Imagine a time in your life when you really looked forward to an something and it was completely the opposite or didn't live up to your expectations. How did that feel? How did you respond?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Nehemiah believed that everything had led him to this purpose. Yet in Nehemiah 6, Nehemiah doesn't face an easy road. Read Nehemiah 6:1-14.

- What is Nehemiah's response to the opposition and the argument for choosing another path? What does that teach you about your response in life?
- What do you think helped Nehemiah determine the false prophet? What helps you to hear God and the voices of evil in this world?
- Nehemiah while many wanted to derail him, Nehemiah stayed focus on God. What helped him and gave him strength? What gives you strength to stay focused on the 'right' path? What are your weakest points that God wants to help you strengthen?
- A very famous business quote says, "good is the enemy of great."¹ How does this phrase apply to the scripture? What was Nehemiah's response? How did that impact the entire nation?

Read Nehemiah 6:15-7:3.

- What jumps out at you?
- What steps does Nehemiah take? What is significant about the timing and placement?
- What does this scripture teach you about setting goals and accountability? How could that help you in everyday life?

NEXT STEPS:

- Goal Setting - we are living in an entirely new era. Spend time in prayer each day on where God is leading you. At the end of the week, spend time with God to create goals for the 'new normal'.
- Who holds you accountable? What would a spiritual accountability team look like for you? Pray over who you could invite into your life?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Lord God, help us to open our hearts to your great and amazing love. Help us also to open our minds to your word of truth. May your word for us be a comfort, guide and also, when needed, a word of confrontation. Lord God, help us to open fully the doors of our churches, that we would welcome the stranger, the foreigner and immigrant, and even the one who is really different. Help us, Lord, to blossom and grow in your embracing love and, yes, Lord, help us always to be peacemakers. We rejoice, Lord God, in all your blessings and gifts. We thank you, Lord; in the name of Jesus. Amen.

¹ Collins, Jim, *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't*. Harper Business, 2001.