

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Father, thank You for being a God who restores, rebuilds, and makes all things new. As we discuss Nehemiah's story, give us hearts that are sensitive to what breaks Yours and help us become humble enough to pray before we act. Holy Spirit, show each of us the part of the wall You are calling us to rebuild, and give us courage to obey. Help our conversation lead not just to insight, but to faithful action for Your glory. Amen.

ICE BREAKER

If you could have an "Extreme Home Makeover" for one area or space in your life, what would you choose—and why?

SERMON OVERVIEW



SCAN FOR
SERMON CLIP



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Drawing from the book of Nehemiah, Pastor Mark Crull examines the story of a man God used to accomplish one of history's great restoration projects.

Nehemiah, a cupbearer to the Persian king Artaxerxes, received a God-given burden for the broken walls of Jerusalem and responded with prayer, patience, courageous leadership, and faithful action. Using the SOAP Inductive Bible study format (Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer), we explore the key movements of Nehemiah's story and draw out timeless principles about how God calls ordinary people to participate in His rebuilding work. Our story begins not with a blueprint or a budget, but with a broken heart. That holy discontent — the deep inner ache over something that also breaks God's heart — becomes the birthplace of his mission. Before he lifts a single stone, he spends four months in prayer, aligning his heart with God's purpose. The lesson for us is both simple and searching: God often begins his calling not with a detailed plan, but with a burden that refuses to go away. As we trace Nehemiah's journey from grief to action and from prayer to rebuilding, we are invited to ask what breaks our hearts — and whether we are willing to bring that burden before God and let it move us into the work he has prepared for us.

READ SCRIPTURE

NEHEMIAH 1:1-11, 3:5, 4:12-18, 8:1-10

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

- 1) Recall a time when a need, injustice, broken relationship, or situation affected you deeply enough that you couldn't simply ignore it. What made it matter so much to you? What situation in your community or church stirs that kind of holy discontent in you, and what has kept you from acting on it?
- 2) Have you felt convicted to continue praying for a situation over months where you needed God to show up in a miraculous way? How did the long season of prayer and waiting impact you? How did God respond?
- 3) Share about a season when you realized that something good, or simply something demanding your attention, had become a distraction from something more important. What distraction have you reduced or eliminated so you can give greater attention to what God has entrusted to you?

**GROW
SPIRITUALLY**

4) God gave Nehemiah a burden before he gave him an assignment. What do Nehemiah 1:1–4 and his response to Jerusalem’s condition teach us about how God sometimes begins to call people into his work? What’s the difference between simply noticing a problem and carrying a God-given burden for it?

5) The sermon notes that certain nobles refused to stoop to serve their Lord (3:5), while everyone around them worked faithfully. In what ways can pride, personal comfort, or selfish ambition subtly prevent you from participating in what God is doing in our church or community?

6) Nehemiah's strategy and rallying cry against opposition (4:14) was to encourage the people to remember the Lord, fight for your family, and return to your work. How can keeping those three priorities in order change the way you respond when discouragement or opposition tempts you to quit?

**LIVE
GENEROUSLY**

7) God's ultimate concern is always people and the human heart. In your own life, where might you be prioritizing things, projects, or busyness over the people God has placed around you? What is one practical change you could make this week that would put a person ahead of a project, possession, preference, or task as you help participate in God’s work of rebuilding people?

8) Nehemiah declared (8:10) that the joy of the Lord is your strength (not the completed wall). What are you currently placing your confidence and strength in? How might a deeper experience of God's joy reshape your endurance in difficult seasons? What preparation can help you be steadfast in difficult seasons ahead?

**TAKE
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please complete this statement, I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please invite each group member to share their action step, if they have one.

**PRAY
TOGETHER**

Take a few minutes for each person to share a recent joy or praise, as well as something that’s weighing on their heart and in need of intercession. Invite someone to pray over these requests. Be sure to share them with everyone in the group so you can continue praying for one another throughout the week.

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER**



SOAP Bible Study (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer):

Northview offers one-hour Men’s and Women’s SOAP Groups across all campuses, aligned with our current sermon studies. We desire to provide an easy way to engage with the Bible and an accessible spiritual community for believers at all levels of maturity. This is a faithful, Holy Spirit-led method for studying Scripture inductively, designed to emphasize direct engagement with the Word of God. Consider exploring one at your campus today!