



DISCUSSION GUIDE

NEHEMIAH 5 - Internal Disruption

GETTING STARTED

Start today by sharing some examples of great leaders you have worked with or for... what were some of their better characteristics?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Last week, Dave shared the following:

"Anytime God calls you to change, fix or re-build something that needs repair, you will face opposition."

In chapter 5, the rebuilding of the wall faced a new type of opposition. Where did this chapter's disruption or opposition come from?

Churches are far from immune to criticism or complaints from within. Why, in your opinion or experience, is it so common for churches to have internal battles?

In Nehemiah 5, we observe Nehemiah having to handle a situation that involved some of his own countrymen mistreating his own people.

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Nehemiah 5:1-19]

What problems were the Jews facing in this passage? List off all that you see or find. (5:1-5)

Nehemiah describes himself as 'very angry' in verse 6. Is anger ever ok for a spiritual leader? Share your thoughts around your answer (5:6)

What was the cause of these problems? (5:7)

Exodus 22:25 was likely on Nehemiah's mind when he was thinking things over. Read it out loud from a couple of different bible translations that your group members have.

What did Nehemiah reference when calling his fellow Jews to change their behavior? (5:8)

What else did Nehemiah reference when calling them to change? (5:9)

What specifically did Nehemiah call the people to do? (5:10-11)

How did the Jews respond to his call to action? (5:12-13)

Mention the actions Nehemiah took that benefitted the Jews during the rebuild (5:14-18)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What, in your own words, does it mean to “fear the Lord?”

If you read through this passage again, what do you notice NOT taking place as they deal with this internal opposition/obstacle? (allow some time for answers, eventually share: There is NO mention of any progress on the wall. Even during the previous chapter’s external opposition, they made progress with a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other)

Why is internal opposition to God’s work so destructive?

How do you imagine God’s heart is impacted when believers fight amongst themselves?

Does this mean believers should never voice disagreement? Please elaborate on your answer.

If it is ok for believers to disagree, what methods and advice can help them settle matters and keep God’s work going?

Which of the positive actions taken by Nehemiah were you most impressed by? Which ones leave you with some questions? Share those questions if you feel comfortable doing so.

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

As you consider your disagreements with your church/other believers, how can you seek to let Scripture be your guide in how you treat each other?

There was a request to take one hour to evaluate your current approach to giving to God’s work.

How does that sit with you? Did you feel it came from a ‘grace-filled’ place? Why or why not?

How can we pray for each other?