DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: Nehemiah 2 & 3; Proverbs 21:31

GETTING STARTED

What did you already know about the book of Nehemiah? Did you gain any new knowledge about it this week?

Have you participated in any major building projects? If so, when? What do you remember about it?

QUICK REACTIONS

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words and what point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

When you hear the invitation to "trust God," what do you think of? What does "trust in God" look like? Feel like?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

Which verse stuck out most to you? Why?

Have you had a time where you felt overwhelmed with fear (or another emotion) but felt like obedience to God meant moving through it? If you don't mind, please share it.

In what way can we actively "prepare the horse for battle, but entrust victory to the Lord?"

Have you ever seen a time when God moved in a miraculous way? In a way in which there was no other explanation but the providence of God? If you feel comfortable, please share.

What do you think of the quote by Eugene Peterson: "The church you want becomes enemy of the church you have?" In what ways? Have you ever seen this happen at church – or elsewhere? Family, school, life, etc.?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGES [Nehemiah 2 & 3]

What stuck out to you about Nehemiah's story in chapter 2?

Why do you think Nehemiah 3 begins with the High Priest and his work on the wall? Is it significant that the lead religious leader might be involved in the manual labor?

See the variety of the workers' jobs in Chapter 3, verses 1, 8, 9, 12, 17, 25, and 32. Has the Lord ever called you to do something out of obedience (and willingness!) and not out of your gifting or skill?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

In light of Westwood's vision, what does "transformational relationships" mean to you? How do you know when you have found one?

What does "significant empowerment" mean to you? How about "engagement in the community?"

How can we pray for each other?