Harvester Christian Church

Life Groups | **PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY**

NEHEMIAH | RETURN, RESTORE, REVIVE

**WEEK 2 – Chapter 2**

Last week we learned that Nehemiah, while still living in Persia, received news that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins and the city was in trouble. He prayed for God’s favor and then determined that he would do something about it. Our study this week details the process of how Nehemiah got from Persia to Jerusalem and how he rallied God’s people to take on a huge rebuilding project together.

**Read Nehemiah 2:1-10**

The key verse in this passage is verse 8 in which Nehemiah states, “… the gracious hand of my God was upon me.”

Why do you think God was gracious to Nehemiah? (Refer back to chapter 1.)

What three things did Nehemiah ask of King Artaxerxes?

The king granted all of Nehemiah’s wishes. What extra thing did he do beyond what was requested?

Verse 10 gives us the first clue that Nehemiah’s project would not go unopposed. The rebuilding project would meet serious opposition later in the book, but how did it begin in chapter 2? (verse 19)

**Read Nehemiah 2:11-20**

Where does Nehemiah say his desire to tackle the rebuilding project originated? (verse 12)

After being in Jerusalem for a few days and secretly inspecting the walls, Nehemiah finally decided to share his vision with others. Summarize what he said to convince them to join the rebuilding project. (verses 17-18)

Nehemiah gave two reasons why their project would not fail. What were they? (verse 20)

**Teamwork**

Take some time to read through Nehemiah 3. Let’s be honest - this isn’t an exciting chapter as Nehemiah lists all the names of the men rebuilding the wall and what project each was responsible for. It does demonstrate, though, what we can accomplish when we have a common goal and each member does his/her part. Read and summarize the following verses related to teamwork in the family of God:

Romans 12:4-8

Ephesians 4:11-16

**God’s Work**

Nehemiah said that God’s people would begin rebuilding the walls, but that the success of the project would be ensured by the God of Heaven. If God was going to be the one to make the project successful, why do you think He still used Nehemiah and others to do the physical work?

Over and over in scripture we see this scenario play out in which God is at work when His people are also at work. He is the source of power, strength, and blessing, but He expects His people to do their part. What was true for Nehemiah’s wall project was also true for the Apostle Paul doing the work of building the kingdom of God. **Please read and summarize I Corinthians 3:5-9.**

**Weekly Challenge**

It’s striking how Nehemiah takes the time in chapter 3 to honor all the men who were serving next to him and to list the projects each one was responsible for. Take some time this week to evaluate your current level of service in the kingdom of God. Where are you serving regularly in ways that benefit the kingdom? If the answer is “nowhere,” contact the church this week to see where you might be of service. Also, take a look around this week. Who do you see serving the Lord by serving others? Why not honor them by sending them a note of encouragement, thanking them for giving of their time and energy to serve others.

**Group Discussion**

Was there anything that stood out to you from the teaching time or homework?

Nehemiah’s wall project was an example of many hands making light work. However, most of the time in churches 80% of the work gets done by 20% of the people. Why do you think that is?

How did you answer the following question from this week’s study: “If God was going to make the project successful, why do you think he still used Nehemiah and others to do the physical work?”

When have you been part of a project in which many people worked together to achieve something great?

Nehemiah said his rebuilding project was something the Lord placed on his heart. What vision or project has the Lord placed on your heart? How would you know if the Lord was placing something on your heart as opposed to something you just want to do?

Was there anything else you wanted to talk about from this week’s study?