WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

Sermon Title: Nehemiah Sermon Series; Part One
Key Scripture: Nehemiah 1, 2 and 3
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/nehemiah-series-part-1
Date + Speaker: February 2, 2025 | Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter: Consider a time you were involved in a renovation project. Briefly share the nature of the project and how you felt at the beginning, in the middle and at the end.

The Big Idea: Nehemiah tells the story of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. As we examine this book we will see that Passion, Prayer and Planning are inexorably linked when it comes to kingdom work. And that God's heart is Restoration: of an ancient city – yes and of people's lives today!

Discussion:

1. Read Nehemiah 1:1-11 Who was Nehemiah, what news did he learn from his brother and how did he respond?

2. Read Nehemiah 2:1-5 After he prayed Nehemiah acted. What request did he make of the king? What obstacles would he need to overcome to see the project completed?

3. What did Nehemiah do in the 4 months between when he received the report about Jerusalem and when King Artaxerxes inquired as to why he was so sad?

4. "Waiting is NOT wasted time." To what degree do you agree or disagree with this statement and why?

5. What link is there between prayer and planning? Is one more spiritual than the other? Why? How might the text support the 'spiritual' nature of prayer?

6. Read Nehemiah 2:12 How might keeping his plans to himself have been strategic? How might it be important in our own lives as we incubate a God given passion project?

7. Briefly review the sermon note IV: The Principles. Invite one or two group members to share about a project they led and how one or more of these principles impacted the outcome and what they learned about leadership.

8. What elements of Nehemiah's prayer (re-read Neh 1:5-11 and keep in mind Pastor Mark's points: Conviction, Confession, Confidence and Commitment) do you find easiest and/or most difficult to emulate in your own prayer life and why?

Diving Deeper:
Consider how growing your prayer life may lead to a more fruitful execution of the call God has placed on your life.

Additional Leader Resources:
Question 3: The group members will see things that Pastor Mark may or may not have identified in his sermon. 3 important 'activities' that did happen in this time were Fasting, Prayer and Planning.
Question 6: Again, there may be a number of different responses: broadcasting our God given call prematurely might lead to an urgency that might not be healthy; it can make the project about us versus God; it can attract undue and unkind input that may discourage one from carrying out the call etc.


Additional resources appealing to those concentrating on emotional/spiritual healing and growth:

Examples of Prayer Applications: https://hallow.com and https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365/



Additional resources appealing to those concentrating on service, tasks, and activities: A course designed to assist you in identifying your unique place in God's mission- https://zoe-network-activate-u.teachable.com/p/identity44111311



Additional resources appealing to those groups with a more studious or intellectual bent: Learn more about Ezra and Nehemiah: https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/ezra-nehemiah/

Check out this assessment to determine your top 5 leadership strengths: https://www.gallup.com/cliftonstrengths/en/512510/cliftonstrengths-top-5-report.aspx