

Dig Deeper @Home – “Kingdom Restoration”

Complement to lesson on 3/19/23 – “Internal Sin and Weakness”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What was your first job? How much did you get paid?
2. When have you struggled most financially? When have you been tempted to be “a lover of money?”

MEMORIZE – Nehemiah 1:9

“But if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.”

READ – Read Nehemiah 5

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?
In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. In verse 1, what is the “great outcry” all about? What needs are going unmet? What do you suppose brought on this crisis? What three groups are most affected?
3. How does Nehemiah respond to the cries for help financially? Why does he get so angry at those who are taking advantage of others? (vv.7ff; see Leviticus 25:39-42; Ezekiel 22:12-13)
3. Nehemiah shows us that loving God and others may require personal sacrifice. What privileges and rights are you ready to give up so that God's work may prosper? When have your beliefs really cost you something?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Act of Generosity

Nehemiah went out of his way to show by his actions the generosity and goodness of God. You may want to practice in the same way an intentional act of generosity in this next week. Begin by praying and asking God to show you one situation or one person you can be generous toward. Decide in your heart to do what God places on your heart to do. Jesus said in Matthew 6:3,4- *“When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that you're giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Who You Say I am - https://youtu.be/lcC1Bp13n_4

God, I Look to You - <https://youtu.be/lKsKeFoOUIE>

Lord, You are More Precious than Silver - <https://youtu.be/05oW8G9ISGI>

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing – Mennonite Hymnal #310

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the series:

As you go this week, working towards restoration in your own brokenness, may you walk in the “fear of the Lord” and find great joy in loving God and loving your neighbor and being obedient to what God is inviting you to live out for His kingdom.