

LifeGroup Discussion Questions
Nehemiah 1:6, 2:17-18, 4:14
April 26, 2020

Overview:

It was around 445 B.C. and the city of Jerusalem was laid waste. The Persian King Artaxerxes sent Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah was caring, organized, communicated clearly, and motivated the Israelites to rebuild the walls. During this time the Israelites were living in fear. A city without walls was open to attack anytime. Nehemiah not only had to lead the people through this turbulent time; he had to inspire them to work beyond their fears and for the common goal of rebuilding the walls.

What is leadership? Society defines leadership by position. If someone has a high ranking position in an organization, then they must be a leader. Leadership is not bestowed by position. Unfortunately, leadership is sometimes given to people based on seniority not necessarily ability. This doesn't mean people cannot grow as leaders if put in a leadership position, but their ability to lead is not based on their title.

Nehemiah had the ability to cast vision. It naturally flowed out of him. He not only cast vision but made that vision become a reality. Had Nehemiah just talked about the need to build walls then Jerusalem would have been left in the same position it was when he arrived. Nehemiah needed to take the burning in his heart to rebuild the city walls and get fellow Israelites to buy into his vision. Once on board they needed Nehemiah's organizational skills to make the vision become a reality. Nehemiah could have given speeches on the need for city walls or the benefits of city walls, but it would have just been talk without a plan.

Leadership is not based on personality. We don't know if Nehemiah was an extrovert or introvert. God can use anyone to accomplish His will. This can be seen throughout the entire Bible. Gideon was least in his clan and family (Judges 6:15). Moses was slow of tongue (Exodus 4:10). King Saul was hiding when they tried to make him king over Israel (1 Samuel 10:21-22). In 2 Corinthians 11:6, Apostle Paul states he is an unskilled (Greek = idiōtēs) speaker.

The disciples got into an argument once about who was the greatest in the kingdom. Luke 9:46-48 reads: ⁴⁶ "An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side ⁴⁸ and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who

is least among you all is the one who is great”¹ Maybe the best attribute to leadership is humility. Jesus not only taught this but lived it. Philippians 2:8 reads: “⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”²

Jesus is the greatest example of leadership. He had both authority and power, but chose to lead by example. He never asked His disciples to do something He was not willing to do Himself. In the upper room He washed all the disciples’ feet. He reached out to the outcast of society; the lepers, sick, and children. His influence went beyond words. He responded to people based on their circumstances. Jesus led, lived and preached the Gospel.

Bible Study: Various

1. Discuss as a group how to define leadership.
2. Why do leaders need to be caring, organized, clear communicators, and motivational?
3. What role does personality play in leadership?
4. In what ways does everyone influence/lead those around them whether it is family, friends or co-workers?
5. Why is leadership more than influence and authority?
6. All believes have been called to go and make disciples. What role does leadership have in the Great Commission?
7. I have heard it said that God doesn’t call the equipped but equips the called. Basically this means that if God has called you to a task He will equip you for that task. Do you believe God has called everyone to lead in some manner? Why or why not?

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 9:46–48). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

² [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Php 2:8). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.