

2021 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

August 1

Pastor Aaron continues to walk us through the book of Nehemiah during week two of the series: "From the Ground Up", which focuses on repentance, hope restored, and the story of people who had been in exile and had to figure out a new way of living. He challenged us with a simple, but profound question: "Are we following our dreams or God's dreams?" What if we paused and asked, "What is God's vision for me? What is His vision for us?"

Community Prayer:

Heavenly Father, as we continue our journey through the Book of Nehemiah help us understand what your vision is for our lives. We have our dreams for what we want to do, but we are willing to pause our dreams and replace them with your vision. Help us to perceive what would please you for us individually and collectively as your children, and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us and guide us in the right direction during this lesson; in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Opening Questions

1. How would you distinguish between God's purpose and your plans? How do they sometimes come in conflict?
2. In what ways do you think we need to surrender our plans in order to follow God's purpose?
3. Is there anyone you feel connected to on your journey of following God? Don't mention their name, but what are the qualities and characteristics that draw you to them? Do others see those qualities and characteristics in you?

EXPLORATION

Read the passages below...what can you learn about what it means to follow Jesus from these passages? (Have someone read from their bible)

Nehemiah 2:5

4. How did Nehemiah show caution and care in answering the king? (What phrases did he use)
5. What phrase showed his courage?

Nehemiah 2:11-13

6. Why do you think Nehemiah waited 3-days before viewing the area at night?
 - a. What could be his reason for viewing the area at night vs the day?



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7. Nehemiah decided to not tell anyone what God had put in his heart to do for Jerusalem. Why is it important for you to not quickly share what God has put in your heart?

Nehemiah is doing his research...he is preparing and planning. Remember...Praying and trusting God doesn't eliminate researching and evaluating.

8. What are some things in your life that need to be repaired?
9. What are some things in your life that need to be replaced?
 - b. What steps are you taking (hint...hint...Prayer, research, evaluate, trust) Try and be specific.

Nehemiah 2:17-18

10. Why is it important for us to seek God in prayer before inviting others to participate in what He has called you to do?
 - c. What are the benefits of using this approach?
11. Why do you think Nehemiah waited until the end to tell the others about God's favor and the king's support?

Pastor Aaron walked us through 3 very important "P" words to consider
PERMISSION: He was given authority

Matthew 28:18-20

12. Who has empowered us to be on mission spreading the Good News of the Gospel?
13. Do you feel empowered by "The Great Commission" or does it scare you?
14. How can teaching and the Holy Spirit help us to stay on Mission?

PROTECTION: He was given an armed escort

Hebrews 13:5-6

15. If Christ has promised to never leave us or forsake us, why does fear still fill your heart at certain times?
16. What is the remedy for the fear that you have? (F_____)

PROVISION: He was given all the supplies he needed

Philippians 4:19

17. What needs do you have that God cannot supply?
18. Why is it so easy to not remember verses like this when fear arrives in our hearts? (homework – Memorize this passage)



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Nehemiah 2:19-20

19. What is the proper response to our “Haters” who want to mock and ridicule what God has called us to do?

THE TAKEAWAY

- Confident HOPE – Being willing to wait
- Confident HOPE – Ask boldly when the opportunity is there
- Confident HOPE – In God’s ability to give success despite any obstacle or opposition

Hope is greater than Fear – People who build their hope in God and not other things or people

Purpose is greater than Plan – Are we following our plans or God’s purpose for our lives?

Unity is greater than Divisiveness – “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace...There is one body and one Spirit.”

Engaged is greater than Entitled – We want to be people who participate fully in God’s work.

- God’s permission governs His plan
- God’s protection guards His promise
- God’s provision guides His people



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PRAYER REQUESTS

