



Message Discussion Questions

1/8/2023

SERIES: Nehemiah

WEEK: #1

MESSAGE: Answer the Call

CENTRAL TEXT/S: Nehemiah 1:3-4

COMMUNICATOR: Pastor Stephen Masters

CHECKING IN: What was one highlight from your week? Share wins (things God did that moved his mission forward and you closer to Jesus). What did you put into practice from last week's discussion?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS: Choose questions that will work best for your group. Feel free to add to or ask a question in a different way than is written.

1. What is special or unique about your hometown? How has it changed? What is one positive memory you have living there?
2. Read Nehemiah 1:3-4. Why do you think Nehemiah was so moved and upset over the news regarding the condition of Jerusalem and of the people living there? What is the usual response of people when horrifying events take place? How is their response different from Nehemiah's?
3. In Nehemiah 1:5-11 we read the prayer of Nehemiah. What are some of the key characteristics of his prayer? In what ways can we model our prayer life like that of Nehemiah?
4. What breaks the heart of God? Make a list as a group with examples. Do any of these stir your heart and if so, which one/s? Which one/s do you need to just sit in and allow God to reveal more of his heart to you in these areas? What can make it hard for you to just sit and not take action?
5. In Nehemiah 2:2-3, he was confronted by the king. How does Nehemiah respond? How would you have responded if you were in that conversation with the king? Vulnerable? Bold? Fearful? Angry? Hope it just goes away?
6. How do you define leadership? What do you think a good leader looks like? Do you see any leadership characteristics in Nehemiah so far from the text? If so, what are some examples?
7. Good leadership starts with being a good follower, following where God is moving. What makes a great follower of Jesus? What makes it difficult to be a great follower of Jesus? What is one area in following Jesus you will strive to improve upon in 2023?
8. As a group, talk about the places where you see Jesus moving in and around your lives? Do you find it difficult sometimes to identify those areas where he is moving? Please explain.
9. Share a time when you experienced a burden becoming an opportunity. What was it and what were the surrounding circumstances? How long did you dream about that future?
10. What breaks your heart now? Sometimes a burden comes to us in pieces like a puzzle. What "burden pieces" has God placed on your heart? (A cause, a person, a city, a gender, a lifestage, or something else?) Share your "burden pieces" or maybe the whole picture with your group.

TRUTH DEMANDS A RESPONSE! What is one action step you will take this week in response to our discussion? Be specific. Try attaching a name and date to your action step.

1. _____.

CLOSER TO JESUS IN 2023: Our *Experience God* page provides a variety of tools and resources to help you navigate and grow in your relationship with Jesus and others. Topics include: answers to your Bible questions, Bible reading plans and study helps, spiritual disciplines, staff-recommended books to



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read, videos, a "Make Me Better" section and more. Go to canvas.church/grow or *Experience God* on the Canvas App.

GROUP PRAYER OPTIONS:

- **Prayer Question:** "What's going on in our lives that we can involve Jesus?"
- **2023 Challenge:** People we are praying for in 2023 to follow Jesus.
- **Ask:** What was one praise and one challenge you experienced this week? Celebrate the praises and pray for the challenges.
- **Ask** if anyone has a need or knows of a need, you can also offer "unspoken" prayer requests.
- **Pray for the person on your right**, *it can be out loud or in silence*, if in silence nudge the person next to you letting them know you are done.
- **Prayer Clusters:** Groups of two or three (by gender) and share your week together. Pray together and for each other. Send them a text, or leave a message letting them know you have prayed for them this week.
- **Have someone in your group keep an active list of the requests and the answers for both the updates and to celebrate the answers.**

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping Life Groups benefit from the weekend message? We have a team for you! Canvas members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email rickz@canvas.church