

WARM-UP: Engage (“Together”)

1. Was there a time you were surprised by how things weren’t as you thought?
2. Tell us about a time you noticed you had a head start? Or someone else did not?

WORD: Establish (“Truth”)

Leader: Questions below should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage(s) will answer them as well.

- Read Nehemiah 1:1-11:
 - a. What does Nehemiah face in his time? (v. 1-4)
 - b. What ways does Nehemiah respond? (v. 5-11)
- Read Luke 4:17-21
 - a. Jesus reads his purpose in this passage. How did his actions “fulfill” His message?
- Read Isaiah 58:12:
 - a. What does this passage call God’s people to do with their privilege? What is the result?
- Read Philippians 2:1-11 (emphasis on v. 6):
 - a. How does Christ model using privilege for the sake of others?
- Read James 1:17:
 - a. What does James tell us about why we need not fear losing/giving privilege to others?
- Read Luke 17:33:
 - a. What does Luke tell us about how life is found?
- **Sermon Recap (if helpful):** Tyler invited us to use the privilege we have in our world to advantage those without it. Specifically, to fight for black lives to matter in our world where they have not in full equality, equity, and justice. To examine how we can live like Nehemiah in response to his own privilege in 4 ways. 1) To listen to the experience of those with different experiences 2) to lament with those who are marginalized 3) to repent of our contributions to their oppression 4) to act justly in difference. All of this was rooted in the fact that Jesus made equity a gospel issue by using his privilege to draw close to humanity and empty himself for the sake of others. He used all of who he was to give to others. Jesus calls for us all to realize that our advantages (regardless of how it was inherited) become gifts when used to advantage others. To know that the gospel shows us that everything we have comes from God and we need not live in selfish scarcity. Instead, that we can give life away to those whose lives do not matter equally in our world.

APPLICATION: Equip (“Way”)

1. How are you privileged or advantaged in ways that others lack?
2. How is God calling you to give privilege to those without it and to make sure black lives matter?
3. What is one step in Nehemiah’s response that you need to take (listen, lament, repent, or act)?
4. What might our church’s witness look like if we advantaged those without it?

PRAYER Empower (“Life” in the Spirit)

1. Pray against/repent of the evils of supremacy, oppression, and racism in us, our city, our world.
2. How can we pray for you to receive gospel-rooted courage to use your privilege for others?