

Change ^{is the} Point

Change is the Point: Week 1

Nehemiah 1:1-4

Joel Engle, January 20, 2019

Small Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started

Take some time to catch up and connect as a group. Pray before discussion. Expect God to move through your time together!

Pacing Your Group

Move quickly through “observation” and “reflection”, leaving enough time for “discussion” and “surrender.”

Scripture Reading

Read aloud the passage for this week’s study, slowly enough for everyone to enjoy. Re-read as you discuss the questions.

Nehemiah 1:1-4

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, 2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.” 4 As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Observation: *What does this scripture passage say?*

1. Describe the remnant of Jews who survived the exile. Describe the city of Jerusalem.
2. How does Nehemiah respond to the report from Hanani and the men from Judah?

Reflection: *What are some first thoughts flowing from the scriptures?*

3. What sobering realities do we face in our nation, state, city, or families that are in need of God’s transformation? What makes you the most discouraged?
4. “Casual Christianity” is faith in moderation, allowing people to feel religious without having to prioritize their faith. Describe “casual Christianity”. What are the dangers of this reality?

Discussion: *Talking together about how the scriptures connect to everyday life.*

5. What is getting in the way of Christ followers being fully deployed and engaged in ministry to godlessness around us?
6. E.M. Bounds states, “What the Church needs today is not more or better technology, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but people whom the Holy Spirit can use -- people of prayer, people mighty in prayer. The Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through people.” Describe a future spiritual awakening where the Holy Spirit moves through the church to change our city, state, and nation. What is the pathway to breakthrough?

Surrender: *Responding to God’s voice.*

7. What is one thing God is saying to you through this study and discussion?

We’re here!

We would love to hear about how things are going in your small group!
Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

Contact Community & Groups Pastor, Scott Smith, (907) 646-4883, scottss@changepointalaska.com