

Keepers of the Gospel

Nehemiah 3 + 1 Corinthians 12:12–26

Nehemiah 3 may look like a simple list of names, but it reveals something deeper—a picture of God’s people working side by side to rebuild what was broken, each person playing a part and every contribution mattering. Together, they accomplished far more than any one individual could alone. In the same way, the gospel doesn’t just save individuals—it forms a people. As you read and reflect, consider what it means to belong to the body of Christ and to take your place in what God is building, and let these questions help guide your discussion.

Observation & Understanding

- What stands out to you as you read through Nehemiah 3? What details catch your attention in a chapter that might otherwise feel repetitive?
- What do you notice about the variety of people involved in rebuilding the wall (priests, rulers, craftsmen, families, etc.)? What does this tell you about how the work was accomplished?
- The phrase “next to him” (or similar wording) appears repeatedly throughout the chapter. Why do you think that detail is emphasized?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–13. How does Paul describe the church? What stands out to you about his description of the body?

Nehemiah in Action

- Many of the people rebuilding the wall were not professional builders (goldsmiths, perfume-makers, etc.). Why do you think they still stepped in to do the work?
- Nehemiah 3:5 mentions that some people refused to participate. Why do you think some chose not to engage? What are some modern reasons people might hold back from stepping in?
- Nehemiah 3:20 highlights someone who worked “zealously.” What do you think the difference is between simply participating and engaging with that kind of heart?

Unity & Community

- What does it look like for people to live and work “side by side” in a church today?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:18–20. What does it mean that God has placed each person in the body “just as he wanted”?
- Verses 21–26 describe how the parts of the body relate to one another. What stands out to you about how we are meant to treat one another?
- How is unity in the church different from uniformity? Why is that distinction important?
- What are some subtle ways disunity can show up in a church, even when things look healthy on the surface?

Gospel Focus

- How does the gospel move us from being isolated individuals to being part of a connected body?
- Why is it significant that Jesus gave His body for us (communion) in light of Paul’s teaching about the church as His body?
- How does the cross shape the way we: view our role in the church | treat others in the church | pursue unity

Personal Reflection & Application

- Where do you see yourself in this passage right now? | actively engaged | unsure of your role | tempted to hold back?
- What gifts, skills, or opportunities has God given you that could be used to serve others?
- Who are the people God has placed “next to you” in this season of life? How can you intentionally invest in those relationships?
- Is there any area where you might be unintentionally contributing to disconnection or disunity?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to step more fully into your place in the body of Christ?