

SMALL GROUPS

Leadership Conversation Guide: "What If You Are God's Answer?"

Based on Nehemiah 1-6

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you felt God was asking you to do something that seemed too big for you. How did you respond?

Sermon Summary

This message challenges us to consider that we might be the answer to someone's prayer. Just as Nehemiah responded to the broken walls of Jerusalem, God is looking for ordinary people with extraordinary burdens who will say "yes" to His calling. The sermon explores five key truths about being God's answer in our world today.

Discussion Questions

Part 1: You Are God's Response to the Bad Report

Read Nehemiah 1:3-4

1. What "broken walls" in your life, family, or community has God been showing you repeatedly? Why do you think you keep noticing these specific things?

2. Pastor Mack said, "That burden may not be an irritation. Instead, it could very well be the assignment that God has placed inside of you." What's the difference between being irritated by a problem and being burdened by God to address it?
3. How does our own brokenness actually position us to help others who are broken? Can you share an example from your life?

Part 2: Your Willingness Is the Catalyst to God's Provision

Read Isaiah 6:8 & Nehemiah 2

4. What's the difference between waiting for provision before obedience versus being obedient and then seeing God's provision? Share an example of this principle in action.
5. Pastor Mack said, "God doesn't fund your excuses. He funds your obedience." What excuses have you been making that might be preventing God's provision in your life?
6. Why do you think God often waits for our "yes" before showing us the full plan? How does this build our faith?

Part 3: Your Willingness Will Rally Friends and Foes

Read Nehemiah 3 & 4:17

7. The phrase "next to them, beside them, after them" appears 28 times in Nehemiah 3. What does this tell us about how God works through community?
8. Pastor Mac said, "The enemy does not attack what is not a threat." If you're facing opposition right now, how might that actually be confirmation you're where you need to be?
9. How can we distinguish between the spiritual enemy and the people he might be using? Why is this distinction important?

Part 4: Your Assignment Will Not Be Done Alone

Read Nehemiah 4:6

10. What unique gifts, talents, or experiences has God given you that could be used to build His kingdom? (Think beyond traditional "ministry" roles)
11. The sermon used the tool analogy—some tools are used daily, others rarely, but all are necessary. How does this change your perspective on your role in the church?

12. Are you currently serving somewhere in the church? If not, what's holding you back? If yes, how have you seen God use you?

Part 5: Your Risk Will Result in God's Glory

Read Nehemiah 6:15-16

13. Pastor Mack said, "The greatest tragedy is not failure. It's never trying because fear kept you comfortable." What risk is God asking you to take right now?
14. How do we ensure that our obedience points people to God rather than to ourselves?
15. "At the end of your life you'll not regret the steps of faith you took for God. You'll regret the moments fear talked you out of obedience." How does this perspective change the way you view risk?

Key Takeaways

1. **You are God's response to the bad report** - What you keep noticing may be your assignment.
2. **Your willingness unlocks provision** - Say yes first; God will provide what you need.
3. **Your willingness rallies friends and foes** - Vision is contagious, but opposition confirms importance.
4. **Your assignment requires community** - Every person matters; we're stronger together.
5. **Your risk results in God's glory** - Obedience always points people back to Jesus.

Practical Application

Individual Reflection (5 minutes of silence)

Take a few minutes of quiet time to ask God:

- What specific "yes" are You asking from me?
- What broken situation have You been showing me repeatedly?
- What fear or excuse has been holding me back?

Group Sharing & Accountability

1. **Share Your "Yes":** Have each person share one specific way they sense God is calling them to say "yes" this week. This could be:
 - Starting to serve in a ministry area
 - Reaching out to someone who needs encouragement
 - Taking a step in a calling you've been avoiding
 - Joining a team at church
 - Sharing your faith with a specific person
2. **Identify Your Next Step:** What is the very next action you need to take? (Not the whole plan—just the next step)
3. **Accountability Partners:** Pair up with someone in the group who will check in with you this week about your "yes."

Closing Prayer Focus (10 minutes)

Break into groups of 2-3 and pray specifically for:

- **Courage to say yes** to whatever God is asking
- **Clarity** to see where God is already working
- **Community** to surround each person as they step out in faith
- **Confidence** that God will provide everything needed
- **Commitment** to stay the course even when opposition comes

Leader Tip: Don't let this become just a discussion. The goal is for people to leave with a specific action step. Follow up throughout the week with your group members to encourage them in their "yes."