

Nehemiah Week 4

Message Based Curriculum

Opening

- Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.
- Recap the Sermon: This week, Jason talked about how seeking God for a fresh start does not guarantee an easy journey. Drawing from Nehemiah 4 challenges us to pick up a shovel (symbolizing work) and a sword (representing spiritual readiness) as the tools needed to fulfill God's purposes in our lives.

Discussion Questions

Read Nehemiah 4:1-23 together:

1. Identify the Opposition

- What kind of opposition did Nehemiah and the Israelites face as they rebuilt the wall? (Refer to verses 1-3, 7-8, 11-12)
- How does this reflect the kind of opposition we might face when following God's call in our lives?

2. Nehemiah's Response

- How did Nehemiah respond to opposition? (Look at verses 4-6, 9, and 13-14).
- What can we learn from his dependence on prayer and the community of God's people?

3. Spiritual Opposition

- Discuss Ephesians 6:12. How does understanding that "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood" change the way we view challenges in life?

4. Working Together

- Verse 6 says, "The people had a mind to work." How does this attitude impact the success of a mission? How can we cultivate this mindset in our small group or church community?

5. Facing Opposition

- Think about a current challenge you're facing. How can you apply Nehemiah's example of prayerful dependence and humble interdependence?

6. Shovel and Sword

- Both Jason and Nehemiah talked about having a "shovel in one hand and a sword in the other." What does this imagery mean for you personally? How can you be prepared both to work and to stand strong spiritually?

Prayer Time

- Share any fresh starts or challenges you're currently facing. Pray as a group for:
 - A deeper dependence on God
 - Strength to face opposition
 - Unity and support within the group and church
 - Close by thanking God for being the source of strength in times of opposition.
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Closing

- Encourage group members to continue reflecting on this throughout the week by revisiting Nehemiah in their personal Bible study time.