



SMALL GROUP STUDY

Nehemiah--From Cup Bearer to Construction Engineer

Nehemiah was a builder. He went from cup bearer to construction engineer because he cared and took action. Nehemiah led the small Israelite community as they rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. It was a daunting task--it is easier to build from scratch than to rebuild from a pile of rubble. He also looked out for their spiritual well-being--demanding that they obey God's laws and thus not fall into the same sins that had led to their captivity in the first place.

Rebuilding a City's Protection (Nehemiah 1-7)

Nehemiah was very submissive. "What is it you want me to do Lord?" He did not have an attitude, he showed respect both to God and to his earthly authority, King Artaxerxes I. Nehemiah with the help of others rebuilt the city walls despite persecution.

Discussion Questions:

- Why was Nehemiah sad before King Artaxerxes?
- What did Nehemiah do when the King inquired as to his sadness?
- When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem who were the two men who were agitated at him and why?
- The people suffered the opposition of ridicule, discouragement and greed in chapters 4 and 5. What opposition have you experienced in doing the work that God has called you to do?
- Examine your heart: Are you actively participating in the work of God or are you a spectator?

Reviving a City's Passion (Nehemiah 8-10)

The construction is finished and now it's time for consecration. Ezra read the law to people from morning until midday. The people were attentive - they had an appetite for the word of God. Then they declare their dependence on God and Ezra prays the longest prayer recorded in the Bible.

Discussion Questions:

- What was it that caused a revival among the people?
- What was their response to that revival in their heart?
- Examine your heart: Are you interested in the things of God? Are you excited to read what He has written in the Bible for you?

Resettling a City's Population (Nehemiah 11-13)

More people lived outside the city than inside. So they took on a massive relocation project and cast lots to bring one out of every ten to dwell in Jerusalem. Then they held a massive celebration of dedication of the wall--with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps. They rejoiced with great joy and their joy was heard from very far.

Discussion Questions:

- What does joyful praise mean?
- What are the 3 problems that Nehemiah takes care of in this section?
- In what 4 ways is Jerusalem the center of the World?