

NEHEMIAH: Critics Are Inevitable

DISCUSSION GUIDE

UNDERSTANDING THE SEASON: Nehemiah is all about rebuilding the ruins of the work of God in our world. God's people had grown distracted and disconnected from God's plan for them to be the expression of His Kingdom in the Earth.

Jerusalem had been in ruins since the Babylonian invasion in 586 B.C. Nehemiah led the third of three returns to Israel after 70 years of exile in Babylon. Even in a state of ruin God was still at work looking for someone who would have a heart to respond to what God was about to do.

This is the condition of the Western church today. Much can be gained by a close examination of Nehemiah's response in his day. God woke up a fresh movement that brought life but it was met with great challenges. No matter how challenging it was God was always seeing his work through.

God's work is a work within us as we learn to respond to Him. It is God's plan for us to spend time drawing close to his heart and hearing his voice together as a family. This is why we start each meeting with this question first:

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

1. Where are you reading in your Bible and what are you sensing from God?

Ask each person in your group to answer the discussion questions below after reading the verses. Realize, there is great power in just reading the Bible together and allowing the Holy Spirit to awaken His conversational nature in the group.

Nehemiah 4:1-4 *Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. 2 And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" 3 Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!" 4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised...* **ESV**

Exodus 14:14 *The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.* **ESV**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

2. **DISCOVER:** Have each person give a simple 60 second summary of what these verses are saying, Encourage people to try not to add insights or application yet. Just simply summarize.
3. **DEVELOP:** What do you sense God may be speaking to you personally as we focus on these verses?
4. **DEPLOY:** We are to be doers and not hearers only. What will you do this week in response to what you sense God is revealing in this time together?

Everywhere we go, we bring...

GP2RL: Read two chapters of Nehemiah each day this week asking God for courage to continue to move forward in the face of adversity.