



Sermon-Based Small Groups

This outline includes the discussion prompts and the Bible text (backside) to the sermon with the respective title mentioned on the right side of this guide. You can also find the sermon at www.manheimbic.org/sermons if you look for it by date (see upper right corner).

Connect
Care
Challenge

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, fellowship. Just arrive after a long week of all kind of things. - Ask: Who are you personally?

Carry each others burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Cry together. Support each other. Pray together. - Ask: How are you doing?

Dive into God's word to learn from each others insight. Encourage & challenge each other to a godly life. - Ask: What is God teaching us today?

Before you get into these Discussion Prompts, read the Bible text(s) on the back of this document.

Discussion Prompts

Coming back from visiting the king, Nehemiah encounters a mess. The people were back to doing an ungodly life. The enemy was literally in their place of worship. People seem to have forgotten the *revival* that they had experienced, the one Pastor Bryce had told us about last week.

But before you judge the Israelites, ask yourself, might the enemy have a room occupied in your life? Here is **Task 1**: Examine your life, where might there be something in your life that you should actually rededicate to God? Be specific? In what area of your life is God not really number one?

Pastor Bryce shared with us three things we can do in order to stay on track with God:

1. Keep your hands from being idle, instead build His Kingdom.
2. Stay away from legalism, instead believe in the free Gift of Grace.
3. Keep the enemy out of your life, instead don't let down your guard and fight.

Here is your **second Task**: to each one of these three statements, find an actionable thing to do. Here is what this means: (1) Where can you *serve* in God's Kingdom to keep from being idle? (2) How can you *remind yourself* daily that the Grace of God set you free? (3) Look at the armor of God (Eph 6:10-18). Which part of the armor do you need to pick up again? Where did you let down your guard?

Work on these three things. Write down your answers and the way you will put them into practice.

BUT most of all, you need to recognize that you can not do it on your own. As soon as their leader, Nehemiah, was gone and they were not busy with building God's kingdom anymore, the Israelites slacked and drifted away from God. Just doing it, because it needs to be done, doesn't work. Many have tried and failed. Legalism fails! But where legalism fails, Jesus succeeds!

How can you make sure that you are do it Christ's way? What is Christ way? Learn your ABCs 😊

Admit - that you have tried to do it on your own. You have failed. And you need God to intervene.

Believe - What Jesus did on the cross contains the power for you to succeed. In Him you can rest assured that you are forgiven, and that His Spirit will empower you to life a God-honoring life.

Commit - your life to His leadership. Connect with Jesus daily and align your life with His Will.

This might be the first time you learn and apply this new way of the ABCs, or it might be a renewal of your commitment to Christ. Whatever it is, remember one thing:

True revival -in the world or in your own life- will only be possible if Christ's presence is driving it.

Clarify
Celebrate

Know what's to do next, with the studies text, within the group, and in general. Have a mission for the week. - Ask: How do we apply what we have learned?

Celebrate life's success and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to *brag* about God. - Ask: What has God done in our life that deserves praise?

NEHEMIAH: Hold fast to the NOW

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)





Bible Text Study

Read & Observe what the Text says!

Step 1: Take a pen, or even coloring pencils, and actively read the Bible text. Underline important insights. Put a box around words that seem significant to you. Wave-underline where you have a question. Make connections of themes.

Step 2: Write in the margins or in the text, why you underlined, put a box, or what it is you think about the text.

Step 3: Sum up what you think is the key truth that can be learned from the text, the Gold Nugget. Write that nugget down on the bottom of this page.

Nehemiah 13 (ESV) On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people. And in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, 2 for they did not meet the people of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them—yet our God turned the curse into a blessing. 3 As soon as the people heard the law, they separated from Israel all those of foreign descent.

4 Now before this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, and who was related to Tobiah, 5 prepared for Tobiah a large chamber where they had previously put the grain offering, the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of grain, wine, and oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests. 6 While this was taking place, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king. And after some time I asked leave of the king 7 and came to Jerusalem, and I then discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, preparing for him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. 8 And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the chamber. 9 Then I gave orders, and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back there the vessels of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.

10 I also found out that the portions of the Levites had not been given to them, so that the Levites and the singers, who did the work, had fled each to his field. 11 So I confronted the officials and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together and set them in their stations. 12 Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, wine, and oil into the storehouses. 13 And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouses Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and as their assistant Hanan the son of Zaccur, son of Mattaniah, for they were considered reliable, and their duty was to distribute to their brothers. 14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God and for his service.

15 In those days I saw in Judah people treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys, and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them on the day when they sold food. 16 Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of goods and sold them on the Sabbath to the people of Judah, in Jerusalem itself! 17 Then I confronted the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the Sabbath day? 18 Did not your fathers act in this way, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Now you are bringing more wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath."

19 As soon as it began to grow dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. And I stationed some of my servants at the gates, that no load might be brought in on the Sabbath day. 20 Then the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice. 21 But I warned them and said to them, "Why do you lodge outside the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you." From that time on they did not come on the Sabbath. 22 Then I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.

23 In those days also I saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. 24 And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but only the language of each people. 25 And I confronted them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair. And I made them take an oath in the name of God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. 26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin. 27 Shall we then listen to you and do all this great evil and act treacherously against our God by marrying foreign women?" 28 And one of the sons of Jehoiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite. Therefore I chased him from me. 29 Remember them, O my God, because they have desecrated the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

30 Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work; 31 and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.



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