



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

Nehemiah, a man who went from cupbearer to governor. This is quite a career, but it all started with a genuine brokenness over the fate of God's people. Pastor Bryce took us in on Nehemiah's conversation with the king. And one thing that we can learn from this interaction is that ...

1. Our Brokenness, yielded to God, is like a plowed field ready to plant.

In Prayer, Nehemiah submitted his brokenness to God. Then he waited on God's timing. In your first step, ponder this: What situation has God put on your heart? What are you broken over? Is it the mental health crisis of so many people? Anxiety? Fear? Or is it the people of your surrounding who are struggling under financial burdens? Is it the persecution of the Christians?

Write down what God has placed on your heart. - Now, bring it to God. Right now, stop and pray. Lay before God what burdens you, and ask him to show you how **you can make a difference**.

Using Nehemiah's story Pastor Bryce also pointed out that ...

2. When we bow to The King we can stand before any king.

Nehemiah's reverence for God gave way to a Kings blessing, but Nehemiah had to step up and have an answer. The king just opened the door for the conversation, Nehemiah had to go through that door. - Look at your life. Is there a door that is open. A door that God has opened for you to walk through to make a difference. Maybe the door is just open just a little bit, maybe it is wide open. Where has God already given an opportunity to make that difference. All it takes is to walk though it. In your group, share your thought. Now hold each other accountable.

Lastly, we learned from Nehemiah that ...

3. Leaders make believers when they humbly listen and learn.

Nehemiah took the time to listened and learned from the people involved in the project. How often are we inclined to present our own ideas and vision without listening to the people and taking their concerns into consideration.

That open door, the one we talked about earlier, do you need to check in with the people in the room? Who needs to be listened to? Who needs to be taken along on the journey? Nehemiah had a clear vision but he still made time to listen to the people who would be mostly effected by the change. Make a list of people who you need to take into account. Now go and LISTEN. Take notes and then see how you can integrate them into the vision God has impressed on you. This might be your spouse or kids. It might be your boss or colleagues, or it might be friends and new partners.

Humbly but firmly step into what God has called you to do. And trust Him to lead you in the process.

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: Humbly His

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 2:1-8; 11-18 (NLT) Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence. 2 So the king asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled." Then I was terrified, 3 but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

4 The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" With a prayer to the God of heaven, 5 I replied, "If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried." 6 The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, "How long will you be gone? When will you return?" After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request. 7 I also said to the king, "If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah. 8 And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself." And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me. [...]

11 So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, 12 I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem. We took no pack animals with us except the donkey I was riding. 13 After dark I went out through the Valley Gate, past the Jackal's Well, and over to the Dung Gate to inspect the broken walls and burned gates. 14 Then I went to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but my donkey couldn't get through the rubble. 15 So, though it was still dark, I went up the Kidron Valley instead, inspecting the wall before I turned back and entered again at the Valley Gate. 16 The city officials did not know I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders—the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration. 17 But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" 18 Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.



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