



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 is mostly known as the man who rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. While Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, and the walls came tumbling down, Nehemiah *rebuilt* the walls of Jerusalem.

But rebuilding the wall was just a small part of Nehemiah's job. After the construction project was over, his life revolved around helping the Israelites rebuild their relationship with God. Because the wall was down, Israel had been unprotected and they could not be what God had set them apart to be: Worshipers of God. By rebuilding the wall, they establish themselves again as God's people.

In this first sermon, Pastor Bryce introduces us to the situation of Nehemiah, and it becomes apparent that there are three key lessons we can learn from the this first take look into Nehemiah's life. Three lessons that effected him, and can effect us in our relationship with God.

Look at these lessons and work through the accompanying suggested life adjustments:

1. When my life lacks regular rhythms of God-worship, I tent to revert back to self-worship.

To re-focus on God, ask yourself: What does your regular God-worship look like? What do you dot connect with God? How regularly do you do it? How much is this action an integrated part of your day? It might be time to reorganize your day around some basic spiritual disciplines, like prayer, Bible reading, and worship.

2. When I am busy "getting things done", I can easily forget what HE has done already.

When was the last time you reflected on what Jesus *has done* for you? Stop right now, take out a piece of paper, and write down what Jesus has done *for you*. Do that now, before you continue. - Did "restoring your relationship with God" make the list? It should! Because "in Him, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life." This is a portion of 2. Peter 1:3. Look up the whole Bible verse and memorize it. Maybe even memorize verses 3-8.

3. When I am invested in one Kingdom, I can't serve in another.

Nehemiah served the king of Persia, but his heart and mind was in Jerusalem, the city of God. You might not have to change jobs, like Nehemiah did. But take a moment and evaluate the areas of your life where you are busy doing *stuff*, when you could be working for God. What is one area in your life, where God has been nudging you to be invested in His kingdom? Maybe it is time to make arrangements to move in that direction.

Pick one of the three above mentioned lessons from the Introduction to Nehemiah. Make it a goal this coming week to work on that one lesson. Really focus on making it happen. It might very well be the first step in restoring or rebuilding a deeper and stronger relationship with God.

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: White Hot Faith

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

Initiate and nurture a Growing Relationship with Christ





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.

Jeremiah 25:8-11 (ESV) Thus says the LORD of hosts: Because you have not obeyed my words, 9 behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the LORD, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation. [...] 11 This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jeremiah 29:10-14 For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Jeremiah 31:31-33 Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Nehemiah 1:1-4 It happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, 2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire." 4 As I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.



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