

NEHEMIAH CLOSE TO HOME

week of September 12, 2021

NEHEMIAH 3:1-16 (ESV)

Discipleship Group Guidelines:

- **Safe Group:** We strive for an environment where everyone can be open, and honest about his or her struggles and victories.
- **Confidentiality:** What is said in the group stays in the group. Please find a private place to video-chat during Group meetings.
- **Listen:** We want to value one another by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond while someone is sharing.
- **Pause:** Allowing a pause in the conversation after one person shares and before the next person shares gives the person sharing a chance to finish. A Pause also gives the group an opportunity to consider before responding.
- **Silence:** It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for people to think deeply, to gather their thoughts in order to share, and to genuinely consider what others have shared. Mute yourself on video chat to avoid interrupting the speaker or causing distractions.
- **One Conversation at a Time:** Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Side conversations are especially disruptive when communicating over video chat.
- **No Fixing:** We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Give encouragement and ask questions, but try not to solve or fix one another.
- **No Rescuing:** When people are sharing something deeply personal, please resist the tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or their situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause people to stop sharing.
- **Be Self-Aware:** Be mindful of how you are personally affecting the small group environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. Be sensitive about the amount of time you share, whether too much (dominating) or not enough (hiding).
- **Use “I” Statements:** It is very easy to talk about other people’s issues, but, for our purposes, we want to put ourselves on the table. We will use “I” statements rather than “them”, “the church”, “people”, “you”, “us”, “we”, etc.
- **Resolve Conflict Biblically:** As a group we commit to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, rather it can be an opportunity for growth. We are all being transformed to be more like Jesus, so conflict and change are a part of that journey. (Matthew 18)
- **Manage Technology:** Let’s respect one another by silencing other alerts on our device that might cause distraction during Group video chats.



Setting the Scene

Nehemiah, a Jew who had risen to the position of cupbearer to the king of Persia, asked the king for permission to rebuild the city of his forefathers (Jerusalem) and its walls. God granted Nehemiah great favor with the king, and the king said yes. This was a huge deal! Walls were an especially important part of any ancient city, providing safety and communicating honor. In last week’s passage, Nehemiah invited the people into God’s vision for rebuilding Jerusalem. This week, thanks to Nehemiah’s careful planning and administration, the building gets started.



Scripture

Nehemiah 3:1-16 (ESV)

1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set its doors. They consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananel. 2 And next to him the men of Jericho built. And next to them[a] Zaccur the son of Imri built. 3 The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. 4 And next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired. And next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, son of Meshezabel repaired. And next to them Zadok the son of Baana repaired.

5 And next to them the Tekoites repaired, but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord.[b] 6 Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Gate of Yeshanah. [c] They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. 7 And next to them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, the seat of the governor of the province Beyond the River. 8 Next to them Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, repaired. Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, repaired, and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. 9 Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, ruler of half the district of[d] Jerusalem, repaired. 10 Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph repaired opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah repaired. 11 Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahath-moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. 12 Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired, he and his daughters. 13 Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and repaired a thousand cubits[e] of the wall, as far as the Dung Gate. 14 Malchijah the son of Rechab, ruler of the district of Beth-haccherem, repaired the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

15 And Shallum the son of Col-hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate. He rebuilt it and covered it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. And he built the wall of the Pool of Shelah of the king’s garden, as far as the stairs that go down from the city of David. 16 After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, ruler of half the district of Beth-zur, repaired to a point opposite the tombs of David, as far as the artificial pool, and as far as the house of the mighty men.