

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of March 1, 2015

This Week's Focus: Nehemiah's ability to mobilize and empower over 40 separate groups of people for one purpose.

This Week's Text: Nehemiah 3

*God's pursuit of praise from us and our pursuit of pleasure in him are one and the same pursuit. God's quest to be glorified and our quest to be satisfied reach their goal in this one experience: our delight in God, which overflows in praise. **John Piper***

*A spiritual gift is an ability sovereignly given and empowered by God for His Glory, used in the building up of the body of Christ, the work of the ministry, and the advancement of the Kingdom. **King's Chapel***

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. **1 Peter 4:10-11***

Related Texts: Psalm 48 1-3; 1 Corinthians 10:31, 12:12-26; Isaiah 43:6-7; John 17:20

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What in the text/sermon was most illuminating or helpful? Why?
- What is the context of Nehemiah 3?
- Although many principles of leadership are present in the book of Nehemiah, what is the book's main theme? [Hint: the name of the high priest, Eliashib, from verse 1 means "God restores."]
- Who is Eliashib related to? Reference Ezra 3:2. How is this significant?
- According to verse 1, what did the people do before reconstruction of the walls commenced?

- It is clear that the Israelites shared a common purpose. What did they make their first priority? What should our first priority and purpose in all of life be?
- What did the people of Israel accomplish together by keeping "first things first?" Reference Nehemiah 6:15-16.
- How is community a direct reflection of the nature of God? [Hint: Imago Dei or the "Image of God."]
- How important is community in accomplishing the mission of advancing God's Kingdom in the world?
- Every member of Israel was expected to participate in the reconstruction effort. How important is it for everyone in the church to edify, serve, and live on mission? Reference 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.
- What are spiritual gifts? Who has them, who administers them, and what are they for? Reference 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.
- What are your spiritual gifts, and how can you use them for the common good of King's Chapel and the universal Church?
- What does it mean that unity in itself is not a goal, but rather it's a byproduct of loving Jesus, serving others, and gospelizing?
- Discuss the difference between uniformity and unity of purpose.
- The people of Israel were strategically placed by God to work as they were called where they lived. Explain how this is true of us today. Reference Acts 17:26-27 and John 15:16.
- What are some practical ways that can we intentionally love, serve, and reach people with the gospel in our community?
- What is the "Sheep Gate" and what is the significance of Nehemiah beginning and ending at this gate?
- How does Nehemiah 3 point to Jesus?

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
- The gospel brings us into the family of God.

Next Week's Text: Nehemiah 4