

Life Group Discussion Guide
Family - Rebuilding The Walls

This weeks sermon explored some modern spiritual applications of an ancient event in the time of Nehemiah. This book doesn't get as much attention as others, yet it is packed with treasure. For instance, the prophet Daniel, a contemporary of Ezra and Nehemiah, penned the "70 weeks of years" prophecy in Daniel 9:24-27. This prophesy was based on the very specific date of March 15, 445 B.C. This date is vital to the beginning of the prophecy; it signals the start of the timeframe, which ends with the second coming of Jesus Christ. Nehemiah is used on this date to set the prophetic clock in motion.

Though there are many avenues like these to explore, today in our discussion, we will seek to strengthen our lives & families by uncovering the principals God reveals in the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls.

Q? In our modern times, what do walls or fences represent?_____

Q? If we rewind the clock of history to the time of Nehemiah in 445 B.C, would walls be considered more or less important to a nation or city than they are today?_____

As we dive into the scriptures, imagine the content & part of it's application, through the lens of ***"Rebuilding & Restoring the broken walls of marriage & family"***.

In Your Groups Read Aloud Nehemiah 1:1 - 2:8

Q? As you process this passage through the filter of family, what stands out to you? What connection do you make? Explain_____

It's interesting that Nehemiah is grieved over the broken ruins of his homeland Jerusalem, which is also a symbol of the city of God In the Old Testament. Jerusalem was known as God's dwelling place and the very epicenter of life for the world. When considering the rubble of his home, Nehemiah is carrying a double burden, one that is personal & the other very eternal.

Q? How does this speak to the way we partner with God in the rubble & rebuilding of marriage & family? Discuss: _____

Verse 3 of chapter 1 describes the state of those living amongst the rubble of their broken homeland - (*"The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in **great affliction and shame.**"*)

Read Nehemiah 1:4 aloud in your group

Q? How is Nehemiah's 1st response to this news a valuable lesson to us on where the Rebuilding of family begins? Can you relate? Explain: _____

Q? When considering brokenness in our life or family, why does it seem easier to try ignoring the problem Vs facing the honest truth about our real state? Explain: _____

Q? If Chapter 1 verse 4 reveals Nehemiah's 1st response as Contrition or Concern. What does verse 6 reveal as Nehemiah's 2nd response? What can we learn from this regarding the rebuilding of our families? Discuss: _____

Nehemiah's 3rd response to rebuilding his homeland is seen in verse 11 of chapter 1. Note that he is speaking of himself as he is praying to God. Read vs 11 of chapter 1 aloud in your group.

Notice in this verse that Nehemiah, commits himself to do something about the problem. When getting an honest, uncut look at the ruins of his homeland, Nehemiah moves from Concern to Confession to Commitment, the entire time in Communication with God.

Q? What does genuine commitment look like in Rebuilding the walls of our family? What might it cost us initially? Discuss:

Close your groups by taking a little time to pray for marriages & families