

Discussion Guide

The Call (Building Lives #1)

Week of April 24, 2022

While this Discussion Guide is intended for use in a Riverwood Growth Group, it can be used personally as well. To get the most from these questions, we suggest you take 10-15 minutes to read, think, and pray through this Guide before participating in your Group. The point of this guide is not to “get through the questions” (there’s no quiz at the end!) but to pursue Jesus and grow spiritually.

Icebreaker (Optional)

What was your very first job?

Discussion

Open to Nehemiah 1

In Ezra chapter 1, King Cyrus issued a decree allowing a group of Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. But the restoration of the walls was halted in Ezra 4 by King Xerxes. The walls remained as rubble for another 14 years, which is the condition they were in when Hanani brought his report to Nehemiah.

Read Nehemiah 1:1-4 aloud

1. A God-given vision (or “call”) almost always comes as an emotional burden. What is Nehemiah’s burden? How does he initially deal with this burden?

Read Nehemiah 1:5-11 aloud. (Optional: Split among two or three readers)

2. How does Nehemiah begin his prayer? How might this affect the way you pray?

3. a. Why do you think Nehemiah spends so much of his prayer in confession?

b. Because of the forgiveness of sin through the cross of Jesus, do you think Jesus-followers today need to follow Nehemiah’s example of confession? Why or why not? (Feel free to include 1 *John 1:8-10* into the discussion.)

4. If God can’t forget, why does Nehemiah “remind” God of what He said in *Deuteronomy 4:26-31*?

Going Deeper (Optional)

5. Eleven percent of the book of Nehemiah are his prayers. What might your life look like if 11% was spent in prayer? Is this even possible? If so, how might you make this a reality? (Consider 1 *Thessalonians 5:17* in your discussion.)

Making it Personal

Nehemiah felt called to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

6. What does God call all Jesus-followers to do? (Consider *Matthew 28:18-20*, *Romans 12:9-21*, *Romans 13:8*, and other such passages in your discussion.)
7. What might God be calling you to do?

Prayer

As you close in prayer, use the ACTS model to guide you: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, & Supplication.

