

Discussion Guide

The Plan (Building Lives #2)

Week of May 1, 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)

When you were a little kid, what did you dream of becoming when you grew up?

Discussion

1. Why is waiting so hard for so many people?

Open to Nehemiah 2

Four months have passed from Nehemiah’s prayer in chapter 1 to the opening of chapter 2. Let’s see what happens to Nehemiah and how he responds.

Read Nehemiah 2:1-8 aloud (Feel free to split among two readers)

2. A) What do you observe in these eight verses (about King Artaxerxes, Nehemiah, their relationship, etc.)?

B) What does it appear Nehemiah has done during his four-month wait?

C) How might/should your observations from A and B affect the way you live your daily life?

Read Nehemiah 2:9-20 (Again, feel free to split among 2-3 readers)

There are two regional governors mentioned in this passage, Sanballat and Tobiah. We will look at them in greater detail in two weeks. This week, let’s focus on Nehemiah’s actions upon arriving in Jerusalem.

3. What do you observe about Nehemiah’s arrival in Jerusalem? Why was this an important step?
4. What gave Nehemiah the authority to stand before the people in verse 17? (There is more than one right answer!)

Going Deeper (Optional)

5. How does *Psalm 37:3-7* add to this week’s discussion on waiting and planning as seen in Nehemiah 2?
6. How does the gospel (the good news of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus) help us during seasons of waiting and planning?

Making it Personal

7. Share some ideas for what a person could do to turn a season of waiting into a period of “active” waiting.

Prayer

As you close in prayer, pray:

- for strength for those who feel as though they are in a season of waiting,
- for wisdom for those in a time of planning,
- and for Riverwood’s unity and growth during this capital campaign.

