



October 10th Discussion Guide

Continual Reform: Nehemiah 5 and 13

This is a 6 week study from the Book of Nehemiah. Content for this discussion guide is based on the sermon, so participation in weekly worship will enhance the conversation on this topic. If you want to watch the sermon it can be viewed at [Sermons Archive - Good Shepherd Church Naperville](#)

Prayer

Open your group in prayer.

Icebreaker (10 min)

As we are discussing fresh starts, did you make a New Year's resolution this year? How's that going for you? Does your resolution need a fresh start?

Give an update to the group on your 52 Challenge!



Discussion (45 min)

1. Read Nehemiah 5:1-7a.
 - a. What were the people crying out about? (see vs. 1-5 and Exodus 22:25-27)
 - b. How did Nehemiah respond? (vs. 6) What does the bible say about anger? (see Eph. 4:26, Ps. 4:4, Gal. 5:19-21)
 - c. What did Nehemiah do after he got angry but before he accused the officials? (vs. 7-look at different translations of wording!) Is this something you practice after getting angry or do you tend to dive right into action? What can you learn from Nehemiah's behavior?
2. Read Nehemiah 5:7b-12.
 - a. How did Nehemiah take action to resolve the issue of the wealthy exploiting their own people? What was their response?
 - b. Discuss how Nehemiah's anger without sin and consideration of the matter before action impacted the outcome. Share a situation where these behaviors (or lack of) impacted the response in your own circumstance.
3. Read Nehemiah 5:13. How did Nehemiah hold the people accountable? Who do you have in your life that holds you accountable?
4. Fast forward in time as Nehemiah went back to Persia and now returns to Jerusalem. Read Nehemiah 13.
 - a. List some ways the people had broken their resolution.
 - b. Remember Tobiah from Nehemiah 4 who mocked the rebuilding of the wall? He's back living in God's house! Discuss why it's important to wisely discern who and what we allow into our lives.
 - c. What did Nehemiah's anger look like this time around? What do you see him doing amidst all the anger and reforming? (see vs. 14, 22b, 29, 31b)
 - d. Take a minute to thank God that we have an example of righteous anger in Jesus and a Savior to cover us when we sin in our anger.

Application question: We saw Nehemiah show anger, action, and accountability as he tried to reform the Israelites. How can God's compassion and love motivate you this week to reform a situation in the world or in your life in a godly way?

LORD, show us where we need reformation and accountability. Thank you for Your forgiveness and always offering us a Fresh Start!

"The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning." Lamentations 3:22-23

