

Discussion Guide

Discussion Guides accompany the [weekly message](#).

Opening Activity:

Invite each person to share a time when someone showed them unexpected mercy or kindness when they didn't deserve it. How did it impact them?

Read: Nehemiah 5:1-19

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Scripture define the “fear of God” differently than how our culture defines fear? (Exodus 20:20; Proverbs 9:10; Isaiah 40:12-15)
2. Nehemiah confronted the wealthy Jews for exploiting the poor. Why does the *fear of God* move us toward mercy instead of manipulation? (Leviticus 25:35-38; Micah 6:8)
3. Nehemiah reminded the nobles that he refused the governor's food allowance “because I feared God” (Nehemiah 5:15). What does this teach us about spiritual leadership today? (John 13:14-15; 1 Peter 5:2-3)
4. Why is mercy such a critical mark of revival in people of God? How does understanding God's mercy toward us change the way we treat others? (Ephesians 2:4-5; Matthew 5:7)
5. Which of Nehemiah's examples speaks to you most right now: deepening reverence for God, showing mercy to others, or living with daily moral responsibility? Why? (Psalm 8:3-4; Colossians 3:12-14)
6. When you think about the mercy God has shown you (Ephesians 2:4-5), how does that impact the way you treat people who have wronged you or made life harder for you? Can you share a moment where you've experienced that shift in perspective?
7. Exodus 20:20 says the fear of God “will keep you from sinning.” What's one area of your life right now where a healthy fear of God could help you make better decisions? How can your group encourage you in that?
8. Nehemiah confronted leaders who were manipulating their own people for personal gain (Nehemiah 5:7-9). Without naming names, can you recall a time when you've been tempted to manipulate a situation for your own advantage? How can reverence for God shift that instinct into mercy?
9. Nehemiah reminded the nobles that their treatment of the poor reflected their fear—or lack of fear—of God (Leviticus 25:35-38). How do your financial, relational, or workplace choices reveal your reverence for God? Where might God be calling you to live with more integrity?
10. Nehemiah said, “Because I feared God, I did not act that way” (Nehemiah 5:15). What's one tangible way you could model that kind of moral responsibility this week—at home, at work, or in your friendships—so that others see God's mercy through your actions?

Challenge for the Week:

Identify one person in your life this week to intentionally show mercy to—someone you could easily overlook, avoid, or even hold a grudge against. Write their name down and share it with someone in your group (or a trusted friend) who will hold you accountable. At your next gathering, check in with one another about how you lived this out.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray that we would cultivate a holy reverence and awe for God that overflows into mercy.
- Pray for forgiveness where we've manipulated or taken advantage of others.
- Pray for courage to live with moral responsibility in every area of our lives.
- Pray for revival in our church and in Redeeming Love Church and Pastor Cannata.