

TAKING IT HOME:

Dear Lord, thank you for the power of forgiveness. Help me set anyone who may have offended me free and release them to You. Help me to bless those who may have hurt me. Help me walk in righteousness, peace, and joy, demonstrating Your life here on earth. Father, I also ask forgiveness of all the negative and harmful words that I have spoken about myself. Transform my thoughts and let me understand how marvelously You made me. Change my habits so that I choose to be kind and compassionate, forgiving others as well as myself, just as You forgave me. In Jesus name, amen.

MY WEEKLY PRAYER PAGE:

My group's prayer requests:

LIFE GROUP TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in a Life Group, but it can also be intimidating. We find that group prayer goes better when we don't require everyone to pray and we keep our prayers short and simple.

Pi²
PRAY • INVEST • INVITE

MY Pi² LIST

P

PRAY

PRAY DAILY FOR THOSE ON YOUR Pi² LIST, PROVIDENTIAL MOMENTS, AND FOR OPPORTUNITIES, BOLDNESS, AND CLARITY.

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INVEST

INVEST AND BUILD AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS AND REAL FRIENDSHIPS WITH THOSE ON YOUR LIST.

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INVITE

INVITE THEM TO THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT (ATTEND CHURCH, LIFE GROUP, GO OUT FOR COFFEE, TRUST IN CHRIST).

FAMILY MEMBER _____

FRIEND _____

CO-WORKER/CLASSMATE _____

NEIGHBOR _____



LIFE GROUP SERMON GUIDE

ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL:

PART 7— MANAGING THE THREAT OF DISCORD

Pastor Lambert Sikkema

NEHEMIAH 5:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

HOMILETICAL PLOT: “How _____ and _____ is the sight when believers make it their delight to dwell in _____.”

1. The evil of discord Vv. 2-5

- Springing up from “_____”

- Springing up for “_____”

2. The _____ consequence of letting things go. Vv. 1,9

- Misery

- Reproach

3. The way of _____ and _____ Vv.6-13

- Righteous “Anger” cf. Ephesians 4:26

- Self _____

- Concerted _____

- Courage of _____ Cf. 2 Timothy 4:2

- _____



Life Group Homework

For the week of March 8, 2020

QUICK REVIEW:

As you reflect on your Sermon Guide Notes for this week's message, what was one key take-away that you'd like to discuss with your group?

GOD'S STORY / OUR STORY

Read Proverbs 14:31

How was this verse true of the wealthy Jews in Nehemiah's Time?

Do you think this is true of our wealthy culture today?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9

How did Jesus treat the poor during His earthly ministry? **In what ways could we show Jesus' love to the poor today?**

Read: Nehemiah 5:6-12

How does Nehemiah respond to his brothers' cry for economic justice?

Read: Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 43:25, and Micah 7:18-19

While the wealthy Jews were wildly in the wrong, we should applaud them for their quick repentance. They did not argue or make excuses, but committed themselves to righting the wrong. Do you have a tendency to hold your fellow believers in contempt for wrong they have repented of? Why?

Have you ever been on the receiving end of unforgiveness? What was that experience like?



DIGGING DEEPER

Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 43:25, and Micah 7:18-19 (Cont.)

In your church this past year, what financial crisis, party politics or other moral problems may have hindered your service to God and others?

In what ways did you react like, or unlike Nehemiah? **How do you think others were effected by your actions?**

Read: Hebrews 10:14

What is it like when people treat you differently because of your past? **Do you find yourself feeling ashamed or uplifted?**

How does it encourage you to know that Jesus' love and loving attitude toward you will never change?

ADDITIONAL SELF-STUDY (Optional)

Read: Matthew 6:25-34, 7:7-12, Luke 10:30-37, 23:40-43, and Romans 7:15-25
Nehemiah shows us in Chapter 5 that loving God and others may require personal sacrifice. Do you struggle to give generously of your resources?

What privileges and rights are you ready to give up so that God's work may prosper?

Share of a time when your beliefs really cost you something?

How can you practice generosity towards your friends, family, and community?

