

Small Group Notes - Week commencing Sunday 10th October 2021

Welcome

How are you doing?

Briefly share how you've seen Jesus at work in your life this week? Is there something He's been saying to you?

Worship

Start by spending some time in worship together. If you have a worship leader(s) in the group, ask them to lead worship. Alternatively, we have compiled a couple of playlists with a range of songs for you to use during worship and ministry.

[Small Group Spotify playlist](#)

[Small Group Youtube playlist](#)

Sermon series: Re-set

Talk title: Fighting for a better future - Nehemiah 4 (esp. v12-23)

Speaker: Hannington

1) Some opening questions:

For those there on Sunday, what do you remember? Importantly, what did Jesus say to you & how did you respond? (encourage people to share personally)

2) Read bible text aloud in the group

3) Talk summary

Pressing on amidst discouragement

Summary

- *The wall is halfway done but not there yet! Halfway scares the enemy but discourages the workers as the end is still some distance away.*
- *Pressure from external enemies, people are tired/untrained builders or fighters/overstretched, and there is much rubble and so discouragement comes:*

Discouragement comes...

- 1) When we're **fatigued** (v10)
- 2) When we're **frustrated** (v10)
- 3) When we think we may fail (v10)
- 4) When we are fearful (v7-8)

But there is hope...

4) Questions for application

From this passage, we see how Nehemiah managed to press on against opposition from outside (Sanballat and Tobiah group) and from inside (tired inexperienced workers).

1. *He Stopped to think things over (Verse 14). Why was this important?*
2. *Nehemiah persisted in doing what God told him to do. How can we emulate that? What activities can help us to persist during opposition and pressure?*

3. *Hannington listed 4 ways discouragement comes (see above). Think of a time where you have felt discouraged. Which of these ways do you resonate with?*
4. *In his time of need, Nehemiah requested God's help (v9), he re-set his plans (v9) and remembered the Lord (v14). He also found support from 'noble people' and they encouraged each other to press on. What opportunities for support can you find to help you in your time of need?*

Note: remember the SG sharing guidelines - this is a time for people to listen and not share advice (advice sharing quickly inhibits vulnerability). 4 P's - present & personal, not past or preaching. Reinforce confidentiality, mercy & grace

5) Prayer ministry

Spend time praying for each other, asking for God's empowering in this re-set moment

The goal here is to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit, rather than intercessory prayer. We believe that the Holy Spirit is present and able to change and heal right now!

The follow the model below is based on how Jesus prayed for people. It's not a formula but a model we've found extremely helpful. As we demonstrate it, others will "catch it".

There are 3 simple steps: **ASK – PRAY - ASK**

- i) **ASK** – ask the person what they're asking Jesus to do for them
And ASK the Holy Spirit what He is wanting to do
- ii) **PRAY** – like Jesus did, pray your best prayers. Invite the Holy Spirit to come, and then wait. As pray-ers, let's keep our eyes open to see what the Holy Spirit is doing
- iii) **ASK** – what's happening? If the pain was a 10 out of 10 when they walked in tonight, ask them what they would score the pain now? What are the next steps? Thank God and ask for more. You may find it helpful to go through these steps 2-3 times.

To ponder or pray about this week...

Suggest a question or activity to take away and do during the week to help in the process of reflection and application.

Some tips for leading a small group Bible discussion:

- *Leading a good Bible discussion is primarily about asking good questions - it's more art than technique and has to be learned "on the job"*
- *We're aiming for self disclosure and application rather than theoretical discussion.*
- *Recognise that people are on a journey - they may be exploring faith or been following Jesus for years.*
- *It may be helpful to start with a lighter ice breaker question, then press in a bit deeper*
- *Open questions are good – "What, How, What if..."*
- *Ask questions that require more than a yes/no answer*
- *Ask questions that are neither insultingly easy nor bewildering obscure!*
- *Supplementary questions are really important - ensure people are grasping meaning rather than trotting out mechanical answers*
- *Supplementary questions have to be asked in the moment, but preparation helps to anticipate various replies*
- *Some helpful questions could include ... how does that tie in with the rest of the passage? Can you give an example of that? How do you think this could work out in our lives?*
- *Avoid leaving people thinking "so what?"!!*

- *Remember that all roads in scripture lead to Jesus!*