

Nehemiah Overview Lesson 1

Building Ministry Together

Day 1 Read Nehemiah 1:1-4 Building Ministry Together

1. The book of Nehemiah is about rebuilding the walls (ch. 1-7) and reforming the people (ch. 8-13). How is this usually misapplied in today's sermons? Give an example. _____

2. The title of this sermon series is "**Building Ministry Together**". In what ways do you think this book will make us more effective as a body? _____

3. How is "ministry" typically accomplished today in evangelical churches? Is this the Biblical method? Why or why not? _____

4. What is meant by "clergy / laity" distinction? Is this good or bad? What does 1 Peter 2:9 say about this concept? _____

Day 2 Read Nehemiah 1:1-4 Looking in the rearview mirror

1. What was Nehemiah's response to his brother's news in verse 3? (v.4.) _____

2. The Jews find themselves in exile, away from their homeland. What happened 140 years earlier? (2 Kgs 25:8-21, Hab 1, Dan 1:1-2) _____

3. Nehemiah seems to be distressed about much more than the destruction of Jerusalem many years ago. Why does this news from Hanani upset him so? (Ezra 4:7-24) _____

Day 3 Read Nehemiah 1:1-4 An overview of the dash

1. What position does Nehemiah find himself in that might aid this project? Given the aforementioned situation in Ezra, what hurdles does Nehemiah face? _____

2. Do you find yourself in similar situations? Give an example. What is our comfort? (Prov 21:1) _____

3. Nehemiah has a burden for ministry, a desire to rebuild the walls in Jerusalem. Why is this so important physically for a city, and spiritually for a people? (hint: for the spiritual part, look closely at the meaning of the word “reproach” in verse 3) _____

4. Nehemiah is going to show us several ways this body of believers built ministry together. Essentials like prayer, planning and community are pillars in how God expects us to take part in the advancement of His kingdom. How might these ingredients differ from a “program driven” method of ministry? _____

5. The book of Nehemiah also shows us that if we are doing ministry Biblically, we will encounter opposition – sometimes from without and sometimes from within. How is this different with what is being taught in Christianity today? _____

Day 4 Read Nehemiah A look ahead

1. If a wall provides protection and purity, in what ways might the church put structures in place to help us better operate **“in the world, but not of the world.”** _____

2. In mirroring the task of “reforming God’s people”, why are the bookends of “preaching and pastoring” both required to help grow us spiritually? What are the ramifications if one is emphasized to the expense of the other? _____
