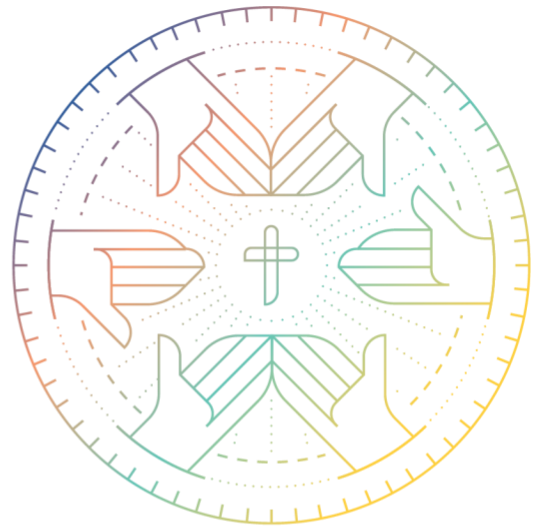


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Nehemiah was living a lavish experience in the palace of the King. What's the most lavish place you've ever stayed: perhaps a vacation resort, a hotel, a particular city or home? What do you remember about it?

OR

Nehemiah was capable of dramatic displays of emotion. He wept and he mourned in front of others. Are you a crier? What kinds of things usually bring you to tears?

## INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

What stood out to you from this week's sermon?

Is Nehemiah's story familiar to you? Is there something that stood out to you? Is there something new you learned about Nehemiah or the other characters in the story that you didn't previously know?

## INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

**Read Nehemiah 1:11.** Specifically the last sentence of the verse reveals Nehemiah's role in the King's government. What do you know about the role of the cup-bearer and what does this role point to regarding Nehemiah as a person?

**Read Nehemiah 2:17-20 and 4:1-3.** What stands out to you about the opposition Nehemiah faced? How would you characterize his enemies? What specifically did Sanballat and his allies hope to accomplish beyond stopping the work?

**Read Nehemiah 2:5-9.** How many evidences of Nehemiah's capable leadership can you find in that passage? Specifically, what did he do or say that showed leadership?

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**Read Nehemiah 2:17-18.** What did Nehemiah say that encouraged or inspired the people to take this work upon themselves?

**Read Nehemiah 4:15-20.** What do you learn about Nehemiah and the Jews who were with him from this passage? Particularly regarding their organization, their commitment and their courage?

**Read Nehemiah 8:1-3 and 9:1-3 and Hebrews 4:12.** How would you describe what is happening in Nehemiah's story and the effect that God's Word was having?

## APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

How does a person know if their heart is tender? How might a person go about pursuing a more tender heart before God?

Pastor Paul said we can grow in our virtue by listening to Jesus, imitating Jesus and loving Jesus. Discuss the various ways a person can listen to, imitate and love Jesus. Which of the three areas present the greatest challenge to you in this season of your life? What specifically can you put into practice tomorrow to get the process started?

What's an area of life where you like to be more tenacious? What might be different in your faith if you were more tenacious about it?

What's one thing from this study you want to focus on in the next week?

## PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the example of Nehemiah. There is so much about him that we aspire to in our own lives. We desire to make a difference, not only for ourselves and those closest to us, but for people far from us. Please give us your grace to grow in tenderness and compassion, virtue and truth, and tenacity in our pursuit of the Kingdom of God. Amen.*