



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOLY DISCONTENT

FEBRUARY 13-14, 2021

ICEBREAKERS

What's the coldest you've ever been?

What's your favorite cold-weather food?

Tell about a time when you had to rebuild – (job/family/loss)

GROUP LEADERS WATCH THIS:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=RDCMUCVfwh9XpX2Y_tQfjeln9QA&v=MkETkRv9tG8&feature=emb_rel_end

***ONLINE GROUPS - YOU COULD SHARE YOUR SCREEN WITH YOUR GROUP AND HAVE THEM WATCH IT WITH YOU.**

READ THIS TO YOUR GROUP:

In the year 586 BC the Babylonians defeated the Southern Kingdom of Israel called Judah. They destroyed the temple that had been built by Solomon and the walls of Jerusalem were torn down. The city found itself vulnerable, and most of the people were carried by the Babylonians into captivity.

The spiritual collapse of the people led to their exile.

In the year 539 BC Persia became the new world leader. They defeated the Babylonians and out of their benevolence allowed some of those who had been carried into captivity to go back to Jerusalem. In the year 520 BC, 19 years later, part of that remnant rebuilt the temple.

In the year 445 BC Nehemiah, a slave in Susa, was raised to a high position as a cup-bearer for King Artaxerxes. This position gave Nehemiah access to the king, which was very rare for a slave.

This story takes place 150 years after the temple was torn down. Nehemiah doesn't know anything else except slavery. We pick up the story when Nehemiah hears a report back from the few people that had gone back to his homeland.

READ

Nehemiah 1:2-4

....one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire." 4 As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

QUESTIONS

- What disturbed Nehemiah? (not just walls, but spiritual condition of the people)
- What is he longing for? (reform, people to rebuild their lives in their land with God)
- What did Patrick call this? (a holy discontent).

READ

Nehemiah 1:5-7 and 1:11b

QUESTIONS

- What does Holy Discontent Do?
Causes you to seek God and pray real prayers
Moves you out of your comfort zone (life was pretty good for a cupbearer to the king)
Pushes you to pay attention to the tension
- How do we talk ourselves out of dealing with these tensions?
- What excuses could Nehemiah have used?
Not easy task, didn't have enough help or resources, didn't know how, resign himself to this is the way it be

QUESTION

Are you feeling a stirring or holy discontent in your life right now? What might a next move be?

PRAYER

Ask God to give each person the courage to face the tension, step out of their comfort zone, and listen for His prompting on a next step to take.