



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Rise Up and Build

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

ICEBREAKER (literally)

So how was *your* week?

GROUP LEADERS WATCH THIS IF YOU DIDN'T LAST WEEK:

- 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 IF YOU DIDN'T LAST WEEK:

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 learns that the walls of the city were torn down and is totally wrecked by it. He was burdened for the spiritual condition of his people so much that he was willing to leave his comfortable place in life and take action.

READ

Nehemiah 2:1-3

NOTE: Rebuilding the walls was a daunting task. 2.5 miles long, 12' high. 2.5' thick.

QUESTION

- What does Nehemiah come face to face with? Why do we shy away from getting to the "what do you want?" question?
(Fear, going all in, change is now going to happen, disrupts status quo)

READ

Nehemiah 2:4-5

QUESTIONS

- What does Nehemiah do? (We don't know what he prayed but we know Prays FIRST and takes it to God)

READ

Ephesians 6:12

QUESTIONS

- From this verse, why is praying through a fear the best way to proceed through a struggle? [\(It's a spiritual battle that threatens to debilitate us\)](#)
- Do you have an example of when you have experienced this?

READ

Nehemiah 2:6-18

QUESTIONS

- What do we learn about Nehemiah from the responses of both the king and the people? [\(Trusted, high level of credibility\)](#)
- How does Nehemiah rally the people to begin the work?
[\(States problem, warns them, reminds them of God's presence and provision, calls them to not be overwhelmed by the scope of work, challenges them to begin together\)](#)
- Starting is often the hardest part. What or where do you need to start? How can this group encourage you?

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. Pray for strength to face our fears and move forward in faith.