

Nehemiah Principles of Success – Starting with a Clean Slate

Nehemiah 2:11-20 – *Message Discussion Guide*

Connect

- What is the worst natural disaster you have ever seen?

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Nehemiah 2:11-17.
 - Why do you think it was important for Nehemiah to closely survey the walls and the damage prior to beginning the rebuild?
 - Why is it important that we deal with our sins and guilt before the Lord before tackling some great project or chasing after some new dream or passion?
- Read Joshua 7:4-12.
 - There was undealt-with-sin in the camp prior to the battle with Ai. What was the result of moving forward before first dealing with the sin and guilt?
 - What do you understand to be the primary message of the Lord to the nation of Israel with respect to their mission of conquering the Promised Land?
- Read Psalm 51:1-10.
 - When David confessed his sin with Bathsheba, he noted five or six things that are true of our sin. See if you can identify those truths about sin in this passage.
 - Why did David say his sin was against God alone (vs. 4)?
 - What did David mean when he said, “let the bones you have crushed rejoice” (vs. 8)?
- Read Psalm 38:18 and Proverbs 28:13
 - What does the Psalmist say our attitude should be toward our sin?
 - What does the writer of Proverbs say we will find if we don’t do one thing but rather do something else? And what are the things we should do and not do?

Respond

- If we believe our sins are covered by the blood of Christ, and if we believe that God is merciful, why do we find it so hard to regularly confess our sins? What are the common obstacles to confession?
- The Bible teaches that there are many consequences to concealing sin. How many can you name? What consequences have you experienced?

Bonus for Thinkers

- If all of our sins (past, present, and future) were forgiven when we were saved, why does the Bible command Christians to continue to confess their sins?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (9/2)	Nehemiah 2:11-20
Tuesday (9/3)	1 John 5:1-20
Wednesday (9/4)	Titus 1:1-16
Thursday (9/5)	Titus 2:1-15
Friday (9/6)	Titus 3:1-15

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (9/2) — Nehemiah 2:11-20

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

Tuesday (9/3) — 1 John 5:1-20

- In 5:13, John says that he wrote the things he did in this short book to help us have greater confidence that we have eternal life. What are three things you have read in 1 John that have strengthened your confidence?
- John encourages us to pray for fellow believers we know who are committing sin (5:16). Not in a judgmental way, but in an obedient way, write down the names of three people you know who could use your prayers and a strong nudge from the Lord. Pray for those people.
- The last admonition in the book (5:21) is to stay away from idols. What are some of the idols that you are drawn to?

Wednesday (9/4) — Titus 1:1-16

- In 1:2, Paul reminds us that God never lies. Write down two reasons that is a great comfort to you.
- In 1:5-9, Paul gives a number of qualifications for spiritual leaders. These are things that all of us should aspire to for the glory of God. Pray through this list and ask the Lord to help you identify three that you need to work on this next week. Write those down.
- According to 1:13, how should we deal with false teachers in and outside the church?
- Read Titus 1:5-9. We see in these verses the list of qualifications that the Lord says should be used in determining spiritual leaders. How do these differ from the ones we often use?

Thursday (9/5) — Titus 2:1-15

- In 2:3-4, older women (which in this case means women whose children have left the home) should be teaching younger women (women with children at home) to be better wives and moms. How can older women do this? How can younger women best take advantage of the wisdom of older women they know? How can men do something similar?
- Both older and younger men are commanded to be self-controlled (2:2, 6). What are some real-world ways men should focus on being more self-controlled? What area of life do you need to practice more self-control?
- What does 2:9 say about how we should treat our employers?

Friday (9/6) — Titus 3:1-15

- In 3:4-5, Paul says we weren't saved by one thing but we were saved by another. What does he say did not bring salvation? What did he say did bring salvation? Thank the Lord for both of these truths!
- Write down two examples or categories of specific things 3:10 is instructing you to avoid being involved in.
- If someone who professes to be a believer continues to cause discord or continues to stir things up, what should you do (3:10-11)?
- Read Titus 3:1-2. What does it mean to be submissive to rulers and authorities? Is there ever a time we should resist our leaders? How do we know?