

Nehemiah Principles of Success – Living a Life of Significance

Nehemiah 6 – Message Discussion Guide

Connect

- Who is someone you have known who stands out to you as someone who lived life well? Why do you think that about that person?

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Nehemiah 6:2-3.
 - How can you tell when a request, an opportunity, or an idea is something you should do or something you should ignore?
 - What are some activities that often consume much time and energy but yield no honor to God or lasting joy to the individual?
 - When someone says, “Choose the best over the good,” what do they mean? What are some good things that you should give up for the best things?
- Read Nehemiah 6:4-9.
 - Nehemiah’s enemies were persistent in their attempt to distract him from the important work he was doing. How are you tempted to get distracted from the important activities, projects, and tasks in your life?
 - How do families get distracted from the most significant things?
 - How do churches get distracted from the most significant things?
- Read Matthew 6:33, Matthew 22:34-39.
 - What does Matthew 6:33 teach about how to determine the most important priorities in life?
 - What does Matthew 22:34-39 teach about how to determine the most important priorities in life?
 - Why is it so hard to prioritize our lives according to these passages in the gospel of Matthew?
- Read Luke 18:18-23.
 - This young ruler seemed to get three key things right. First, he revered Jesus enough to seek him out to ask this important question. Second, he desired eternal life. Third, he lived a moral life and worked to keep the commandments. So, what went wrong? How did he fail to choose the best over the good?
 - The rich young ruler struggled with letting go of wealth. What other kinds of things cause people the same problems?
 - How would you have counseled the rich young ruler?

Respond

- Write down a list of four or five things you want to be known for at the end of your life. Then write down three or four things that distract you and consume your time and energy. Talk with the Lord about how you will choose the former over the latter.
- What are some daily habits you can develop to help you to live a life that always seeks the Lord and that helps you live a life of significance?

Bonus for Thinkers

- How does Nehemiah’s behavior in Nehemiah 6 mesh with Christ’s instructions in Matthew 18:15-17?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

| Day | Scripture |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Monday (9/23) | Nehemiah 5:1-19 |
| Tuesday (9/24) | 2 Corinthians 9-10 |
| Wednesday (9/25) | 2 Corinthians 11:1-29 |
| Thursday (9/26) | 2 Corinthians 11:30-12:21 |
| Friday (9/27) | 2 Corinthians 13:1-14 |

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (9/23) — Nehemiah 5:1-19

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

Tuesday (9/24) — 2 Corinthians 9 – 10

- The principle Paul gives in 9:6 applies to so many areas of life and service. See if you can identify three different ways this applies to our spiritual lives.
- Why do you think God loves a cheerful giver? Do you think he also loves a cheerful servant? A cheerful worshipper? What is your attitude toward giving, serving and worshipping the Lord? How can you be more cheerful in those three areas?
- According to 9:10, who supplies what we need to serve and give? How has the Lord blessed you with time, treasure and talents to give to others and to the Kingdom?

Wednesday (9/25) — 2 Corinthians 11:1-29

- In 11:3-4 we learn that Paul is fearful that the Corinthians might be led astray by false teachers. Write down three ways you can make sure that doesn't happen in your life?
- Re-read 11:24-28. Paul suffered so much to faithfully share the gospel and serve the Lord. Jot down some of the reasons you give yourself for not serving more. Pray and ask the Lord which of your reasons are legitimate and which may simply be expressions of selfishness or laziness.
- Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-28. How can you explain the difference between the sacrifice of Paul and the selfishness and laziness of many believers today?

Thursday (9/26) — 2 Corinthians 11:30 – 12:21

- Paul writes in 12:6 that he is careful not to lead people to think more highly of him than they should. Do you have this same attitude? What are some ways you are tempted to try to impress people with your spirituality?
- Paul prayed earnestly for God to change something in his life and the Lord refused (12:8). When that has happened to you, how has your response been similar or different from Paul's response in 12:9?
- The summary for the first half of 2 Corinthians 12 is found in 12:10. This is a hard truth to understand, but it is critical to living the Christian life, therefore it is worth spending some extra time focusing on the verse. Rewrite this verse in your own words.

Friday (9/27) — 2 Corinthians 13:1-14

- In 13:5, Paul commands those in the church of Corinth to examine themselves and see if in fact they are in the faith. What are the evidences a person should find in his life to prove that he is in the faith?
- In the beginning of 13:11, Paul commands his readers to rejoice or to have joy. How can we do this? What are a few key steps we should take to insure joy?
- The church of Corinth was a troubled church. They had many divisions. In 13:11, Paul encourages them to unite by aiming for restoration, comforting and agreeing with each other. What does Paul say (at the end of 13:11) will happen if they do these things? What are some things you can do to create better peace and unity in your family and your church?