

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Master Plan 2019

These questions are for the **May 19, 2019** sermon, "The Hand of God." Please read the sermon passage (Nehemiah 2:11-20) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

IN THE CONVERGENCE OF MINISTRY AND FACILITY, NOTE GOD'S HAND IN HOW . . .

1. The needs are assessed (11-16)
 - a. The wise builder sees a need, and begins to pray about meeting that need.
 - b. An internal vision becomes an external reality.
 - c. Allow for small beginnings. And continue to work.
2. The vision is imparted (17-18a)
 - a. Nehemiah points out "the trouble that we are in."
 - b. And points out the positive solution, "let us build."
3. The plan is affirmed (18b-20)
 - a. The key to the completion of the project is the support and involvement of the people.
 - b. The people respond to the vision placed before them with enthusiasm.
 - c. The people encourage each other in word and in participation.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Note how God orchestrates Nehemiah's life. Having given him influence in the King's palace, he now positions him as "an outsider," placing a vision for the reconstruction of Jerusalem's walls on his heart. How has God prepared you? What are your skills? Who influences you? Whom do you influence?
2. Based on #2, above: Many of the people of Jerusalem had lived with broken-down walls for some time, but when Nehemiah came and saw the state of the City, he brought a fresh perspective for restored walls. what can we learn from this "outsider's" perspective? Do you tend to listen closely to "fresh perspectives"? Or do you tend to marginalize them?
3. Based on #2, above: Nehemiah starts with the negative: "Do you see the trouble we are in?" And then he quickly emphasizes the positive: "Let us build." What can we learn from Nehemiah's strategy? Do you simply point out negatives? Or do you land on the positives? How can you improve in this area?
4. Based on #3, above: The key to the entire re-building of the wall is the people's embracing of Nehemiah's plan/vision/leadership. Most of the people "strengthened their hands for the work" (19b). As you look ahead to our own Master Plan project, do you sense that your "hands are strengthened?" What questions do you have? How can "Nehemiahs" help you?
5. Based on #3, above: The building of the walls, embraced by so many, was opposed by a few on the inside, and some of the outside (20). Would you please spend some time in prayer in your Life Group asking that God maximize our unity as we proceed with the Master Plan? We want the door OPEN, our ears OPEN and the opportunity OPEN for those who were previously opposed (if there are any) to come on board. May God be glorified in our midst!