

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - Building the Future
Topic - Living In The New Normal
(Nehemiah 13)

Date - 02-August-2020
Speaker - Ps Ernie Song

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Be Thou My Vision
2. Lord, I Will Bow To You

BIBLE READING PLAN [10 min]

Take some time to talk about the Bible Reading Plan. The time of sharing can include the following:

- a) How's everyone's progress so far?
- b) What are some things that God has spoken to you through the various readings?

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Know which relationships distract them from their pursuit of God, and how to minimise their influences over their lives.
2. Cultivate a consistent lifestyle of devotion, tithing, and keeping the Sabbath holy.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. Transformation must take place in our life in order for revival to be sustained.
2. For transformation to happen, two areas in our life must be dealt with – **relationships** and **lifestyle**. These fundamentals need purification if we want to live in the new normal.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

This is the final message in the series “Building the Future” based on the book of Nehemiah. Chapter 13 describes the events that occurred before the national revival in the previous chapters. In his journal, Nehemiah sets out to challenge the people to reorder their relationships and their lifestyle so that their revival can be sustained for the long haul. The nation of Israel cannot come out of their cycle of sin and God’s judgment unless there is transformation in the ways of the people. Likewise, a Christian’s revived life cannot be sustained unless there is a radical change to one’s lifestyle and relationships.

1. A spiritual revival must be followed by a relationship cleansing (vv 4-9).

We must minimise the influence of people (the “Tobiah’s”) in our life who will distract us from pursuing God. We must also beware of others who do not share our Kingdom values (“the foreign women”) that have become part of our core community and unknowingly pulls us away from thriving in the new normal. These individuals may be good and nice people, but they do not share kingdom values.

2. A spiritual revival must be followed by a lifestyle cleansing (vv 10-22).

We must cultivate a pattern of disciplined personal devotion, tithing and keeping the Sabbath, if we want to live in the new normal of a revived life. Keeping the Sabbath involves rest (6 days work and 1 day rest), and keeping it holy (a day that is dedicated to the Lord).

God has been doing a work in many lives during this pandemic – spending time with family, participating in virtual services and cell meetings, spending time with the Lord, investing in relationships that truly matter, etc. This is the new normal. Unless we commit to making these work for the long haul, we will return to our former ways. God is “forcing” us in this season to focus on things that matter. He is preparing a “greenhouse” for Jesus’ return. Will He find a spotless Bride who is ready?

Discussion Questions

- 1. As we close this sermon series on “Building our Future,” what has been the most significant lesson you have learned from the book of Nehemiah? [15 min]**

Leaders’ Notes

A recap question. You can also rephrase the question as: In what areas has the book of Nehemiah challenged you to be a better disciple? Or: Is there any verse or portion of Scripture in Nehemiah where God has spoken to you personally? E.g., 4:14 – “Don’t be afraid... Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes” or 9:17 – “They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles You performed among them... But You are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them...” Encourage members to commit them to memory if they have.

“The book of Nehemiah shows us the kind of significant impact one individual can have on a nation. Nehemiah served in secular offices, using his position to bring back to the Jews order, stability, and proper focus on God. God uses all manner of people in all manner of places doing all manner of work. Do you feel you must be “in ministry” in order to serve God? Be encouraged; He is not limited by your vocation. In fact, God has

placed you where you are for a purpose.” – Chuck Swindoll

An excellent summary of the book of Nehemiah by Chuck Swindoll.

<https://bit.ly/3i1NDjg>

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

If one individual can make a big difference, how much more can a community with the same purpose, passion and unity do for the world around us? Together, the Church is an unstoppable force and hope for the world, but it starts with one person willing to live and die for Christ. We have likely met some of these individuals.

- 2. Is there anyone in your life or community who has left you a positive legacy? How have their actions impacted your life?** [15 min]

Leaders’ Notes

A relate question. We all have people in our life who have impacted us positively. Share one or two persons who have contributed to your faith. We can never be the kind of people God wants us to be on our own. We were never intended to be. We all need people who are teaching us, sharing their lives with us, investing in us, and encouraging us to grow. The Bible tells us, “Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.” (Proverbs 13:20)

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

On the flip side, there will always be others who have a negative effect on our faith, or may even intentionally draw us away from the pursuit of God. Are we aware of these relationships? In fact, they may not even be people from outside the church. They may even be “Christians” by name in our midst.

- 3. Which core relationships do you have that do not carry kingdom values? How will you invest your time in relationships that spur you on in your faith?** [15 min]

Leader’s Notes

A response question. After we have pondered on those core relationships that are not edifying or beneficial to our faith, challenge members to take decisive steps to invest in relationships that are. Consider a “Paul” and a “Timothy” in your life. Every Christian needs both a Paul and a Timothy. A Paul is somebody who is a more mature Christian and is helping to train and encourage you. A Timothy is somebody who has not been a Christian as long as you whose faith you are helping to build. As you seek a Paul and a Timothy in your life, you will also commit to be a Paul and a Timothy to others. “The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Timothy 2:2)

Closing

To fully live out God’s calling on our life, we need other people. We will more fully grow as disciples when we learn from other believers who are more mature than you and when you share your wisdom and experience with believers who are younger than you. – Rick Warren

Resource: A practical guide by Rick Warren to building relationships that count for the Kingdom. <https://bit.ly/2Dtb7Po>

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. Response to Message

- That we will commit to develop relationships that will build us up.
- That we will embark on a lifestyle of discipleship and devotion that will sustain us throughout our life.

2. COVID-19 – Phase 2

- Pray for Christians to continue to grow and share the good news during this season.
- Pray for the recovery of our economy, locally and internationally.
- Pray for the decrease of community cases as we continue on in Phase 2.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We Belong

RiverLife E-Gathering And 29th Anniversary
22-23 Aug 2020
Registration at rlc.sg/wb2020.

2. RiverLife Weekly

Issue 16: Disciple Making - It's Personal
Read the full note at <https://rlc.sg/wkly16>

3. RiverLife Stories

Disciple Making Series (Part 2 of 4)
Read the full story at <https://rlc.sg/fb>

4. Marriage Preparation Course (online via Zoom)

6, 13, 27 Sep, 4 & 11 Oct (Sundays, 1.45pm-5pm),
18 Oct (Sun, 2pm-4.30pm) and 17 Oct (Sat, 9am-12.30pm)
Register online at rlc.sg/mpc or email Christine Tan at christinetan@riverlife.org.sg

Church Vision

“A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations.”

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.