

Re-Build

Committed Faith

Icebreaker Question: Share a time you had to approach someone in a position of authority with a request. How did it go?

Share and Pray

- Share any “God wins” or where you saw God working in your life or the lives of others during the past week.
- What challenges have brought you closer to God this week?
- Praise for the good things
- Prayer for the challenges

Bible/Discovery

- Read **Nehemiah 2:1-20** (everyone following along in their Bibles)
- Re-read the verses (Bibles closed except for the reader)

Leader: You don't have to answer all the questions below. Pick the ones that you think apply more directly to your group or make up your own that you think will help your group grow as disciples of Jesus. Let the Holy Spirit guide your conversation.

- What do you learn about God in these passages?
- What do you learn about people in these passages?
- Read **Proverbs 3:5-6** and **Psalms 27:1-4**. Share a moment in your life you had to wait for God's timing. How were you challenged? How were you encouraged?
- Share a time in your life where God put a deep concern in your heart, and it was an opportunity to grow in your faith. Or share a moment you experienced fear that was an opportunity to grow in your faith with God.
- What role should tactfulness and respect play in a Christ follower's interactions with those who may not know Christ?
- Nehemiah 2:6-8 reveals the specific plans Nehemiah had in place for his return to Jerusalem. How do you balance taking personal responsibility and trusting God's sovereignty? There are 3 parts to a relationship: God's part, my part, their part. What helps you stay focused on your part?
- What opportunities is God placing in front of you? What plan do you see Him working out in your life? What are you doing in response to His direction?
- How can you specifically put into action what God is showing you from reading, hearing and discussing these passages?
 - Create an “I WILL” statement (example “I will be kind to my spouse this week.”)
- Who are you going to tell about what you discovered in the passages we discussed this week?

Prayer Requests – how can we pray for one another to address the “concerns” God has put in our hearts?

Pray for the coming week, for the application of the Word in our lives, for those we are reaching for Jesus.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

Safe Group – This is a safe group. We will do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open & honest with their struggles and victories.

James 5:16, Ephesians 4:25

Confidentiality – Confidentiality is key. What is said in the group stays in the group. **Proverbs 11:12-13**

Listen– Be sure to listen well. Let's value one another during our discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you're going to respond or what what you're going to say next. **James 1:19**

Pause – Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares to give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

Silence – Allow silence in the group. It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

No "Crosstalk" – Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

Proverbs 26:20

Don't Rescue & Don't Fix – When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the desire to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you may offer some advice. **Proverbs 18:13**

Use Humor Responsibly – Fun is an essential part of Small Group; however keep sarcastic comments, jokes, and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability. **Matthew 12:36**

Be Self-Aware – Be self-aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

Proverbs 21:2

We will not Debate Issues – These boundaries are essential for a balance and harmony in the group. **1 Corinthians 1:10**

"I" Statements – Use "I" statements. It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but we want to go deeper. Try to use "I" "I" statements rather than "them", "they", "we", "us", "the church", etc. **Matthew 5:37**

Sharing – We want everyone to have a chance to share. Be sensitive about the amount of time you share. **James 1:19**

Start and Stop on time – Be mindful of the host and other members not to come too early or stay too late. **Proverbs 25:17**

Conflict Resolution – We will commit to Resolve conflict biblically. As humans we will need to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, but an opportunity for growth. We are being changed to be more like Jesus, so conflict and change are part of the journey. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues.

Overlooking an offense. **Proverbs 19:11**

Restoring someone in sin. **Galatians 6:1-5**

Forgive a sinner. **Colossians 3:12-13** Reconciling differences. **Matthew 5:23-24**