

Small Group Study Guide

A Concern for Legacy

Series: Nehemiah Rebuilding a Life of Faith

Nehemiah 13:14, 22, 29, 21

From Sunday November 22, 2020

Appetizer:

Question: What did you dream about becoming when you grew up? Why? Did your dreams include making a difference for others?

A definition of a legacy comes to us from the Broadway play, "Hamilton" where a character sings, "Legacy, what is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see."

It's a poetic definition of this idea of forwarding something of worth from the past to the future. Words of legacy include forwarding a heritage, or a birthright, a gift, an inheritance, a tradition, or a foundation.

Question: Which of these words resonate most with you when considering YOUR legacy?

Main Course:

In our final reflection on Nehemiah, we take time to revisit all of his many prayers through his memoirs.

Have someone read Nehemiah 13:14, 22, 29, 21

What do you notice most about his prayers?

Question: Why do you pray? What are you wanting to accomplish when you pray? What is the point of prayer?

Nehemiah prayed often and bluntly. He consistently used the words "Remember me" when talking to God. In this week's sermon, it was suggested that this prayer was not Nehemiah displaying a confidence in his actions as a way to earn God's favour, nor it was it a belief that God would be forgetful. Rather, "Remember me," was a cry to God's compassion as well as a desire to be a part of God's great story.

Question: At the end of time, the Bible tells us that those who followed Jesus would hear the words,

"Well done, good and faithful servant." Why are these words important to us?

Question: We are all contributors to God's story. Is this easy to see? In what ways have you felt that your life was part of God's bigger story? In what ways have you wrestled with seeing your life as part of God's story? And what does it mean to be part of God's story?

Dessert:

When applying Nehemiah's desire to be part of the story of God's people, we can see that there is no time like today to start building a legacy.

Carey Nieuwhof suggests three cultural needs that the church can fulfill right now. Take a moment to reflect on each of the points:

1. A blaming culture needs a confessing church.

What does a confessing church do for a blaming culture? How does confessing to one another contribute to God's story?

2. A divided nation needs a united church.

What does a united church teach a divided nation? How does unity in the church contribute to God's story?

3. An exhausted culture needs an alternative to itself, not an echo of itself.

What does an alternative church culture display to an exhausted world. How does living differently than the world contribute to God's story?