

Restoring The Gate: A Journey of Renewal Through Nehemiah

(Nehemiah 5)

“Fix the Inside First”

October 5, 2025

I. Listen to the _____ of the People (vv. 1-5)

“There was a widespread outcry from the people and their wives against their Jewish countrymen.” (Nehemiah 5:1, CSB)

Principle: A broken community cannot be restored if the wounds inside are ignored.

II. Have the _____ to Confront (vv. 6-11)

“I became extremely angry when I heard their outcry and these complaints.” (Nehemiah 5:6, CSB)

Principle: Renewal requires leaders and members willing to address sin and selfishness within.

III. Induce the _____ to Restore Integrity (vv. 12-13)

“We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.” Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised.” (Nehemiah 5:12, NIV)

Principle: True restoration is not just words—it’s repentance and action.

IV. Produce the _____ of a Godly Leader (vv. 14-19)

“The governors who preceded me had heavily burdened the people, taking from them food and wine as well as a pound of silver. Their subordinates also oppressed the people, but because of the fear of God, I didn’t do this. Instead, I devoted myself to the construction of this wall, and all my subordinates were gathered there for the work. We didn’t buy any land.” (Nehemiah 5:15–16, CSB)

Principle: Integrity at the top inspires integrity throughout the body.

Pastor David Bardowell, Senior Pastor
PastorDavid@TheGateOC.com
Info@TheGateOC.com

Small Group Discussion – Week 5

Title: Fix the Inside First

Text: Nehemiah 5:1–19

Icebreaker

- Have you ever had to fix something “on the inside” before it could work properly on the outside (a car, a home, a relationship)? Share your story.
-

Digging Into the Word

1. Read Nehemiah 5:1–5. What kinds of problems were the people facing, and why were they so serious?
 2. Why do you think Nehemiah became angry (v. 6)? What does his response teach us about righteous anger?
 3. In verses 10–12, the people agree to give back what they had taken. Why is repentance more than just saying “sorry”?
-

Applying the Word

4. What “inside issues” (like selfishness, division, or unforgiveness) can weaken a church today?
 5. How can *The Gate* practice integrity and fairness in its relationships—both inside the church and with the community?
 6. Nehemiah led by example, living sacrificially and refusing personal gain (vv. 14–19). What does leadership by example look like in our church and in our homes?
-

Going Deeper

7. Are there areas in your personal life where God is calling you to “fix the inside first”?
 8. How can this group encourage one another to live with greater integrity and unity?
-

Prayer Time

- Pray for humility to confront and confess areas of sin or division.
 - Ask God to purify *The Gate* so it can be strong in mission.
 - Thank God for Jesus, who restored us from the inside out.
-

Your voice matters. We’d love to hear what God is showing you through these questions. Please share your thoughts by emailing us at info@thegateoc.com — your insights will help shape the renewal and restoration of The Gate.