



Plus One

The Unexplainable Life

#npplusone

Week
5 of 5

August 29, 2021

Bottom Line: We are to reflect God's greatness, goodness, and generosity, living an unexplainable life that elicits questions from others.

Icebreaker: Who is one contemporary person you would like to meet? If you could ask him/her one question, what would it be?

Key Verse: *You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.* Matthew 5:14-16 MSG

Everyone ends up somewhere in life. Nehemiah ended up somewhere on purpose. A clear vision, along with the courage to follow through, dramatically increases your chances of looking back at the end of your life with deep satisfaction, thinking, "I did it. I succeeded. I finished well. My life counted." All of us are living on one of three levels:

Survival: You just live from week to week, looking forward to weekends, vacations, and finally retirement. **Success:** Your life is pretty full of eating out, driving a nice car, looking good, feeling good, having things. But you wonder sometimes, "If I am so successful, why I don't feel satisfied?" **Significance:** You know your life matters. You know why you are alive, and you have a purpose. Like Nehemiah you have a destiny to fulfill. God has placed before you people and opportunities and responsibilities that are filled with divine significance. Each requires risk taking and sacrifice. As God wanted Israel to be a light to the nations by the way they lived, God has given us the responsibility of calling attention to His character, power, and greatness by the way we live. Our lives are to be so different that there is no easily explained reason for them, outside of God. We are to be light bearers, sharing our light and lives with others. The markers of the only God, unexplainable life are peace in the midst of chaos, healthy relationships in a world of dysfunction, generosity (kindness with no strings attached), and character (doing what is right as God defines right, regardless of the cost). These markers draw wide attention and have powerful potential to make a difference. Everyone is a people watcher. The question is when people see us what do they see? Who do they see? They are looking for something authentic. Something that works. When they see it they will eventually ask about it. You are here to be a light to the world. Your life is not for you alone; it is a means to an eternal end. When people look at you, may your life point to the same conclusion as Nehemiah's: it was done with the help of God.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of Sunday's message to you?

To understand Nehemiah's day you need to understand God's purpose for establishing the nation of Israel. God wanted Israel as a light to the surrounding nations. The idea was that pagan nations would see God's activity in the life of Israel and conclude Israel's God is God. How do you see that plan for us, His chosen people of today?

God's desire is always to show His character through His people. What aspects of His character do you believe the world must see in us?

How do the markers or the qualities of peace, healthy relationships, generosity, and character put God on display?

Whose unexplainable, God-only life attracted you? How did they help you make the connection between the life you had and the life you wanted?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

As you look back over your life, can you see definite periods where you have lived in survival, success, or significance levels? Discuss.

Where are you now? Why?

Which of the markers of the unexplainable life do you feel most confident are attractive in your life? How is God using them? Where do you need to step up?

Is anyone currently asking about your life or giving you opportunities to share Jesus with them?

People can't ask questions until they are close enough to observe your life. How can you be accessible for "people-watching" that will lead others to ask the right questions?

For whom are you praying? How are you praying to be a light-bearer?

NEXT STEPS

1. Review what you have learned from Nehemiah and determine your “Plus One” obedience.
2. Talk to God about your God-markers: peace, healthy relationships, generosity, and character. Where are you representing Him effectively?
3. Make a commitment to pray daily for the people who see your life.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: We are to reflect God’s greatness, goodness, and generosity, living an unexplainable life that elicits questions from others.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Matthew 5:13

Tuesday: Matthew 5:14-16

Wednesday: 1 Peter 3:15

Thursday: 1 Peter 2:12

Friday: Acts 4:13

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)