



NEXT

Help! I Need Somebody

#npnext

Week 1

1 of 2

April 7, 2019

Bottom Line: How we work together will change the way a generation sees God.

Icebreaker: Choose one: If you had to select a team of three to gather a crowd of at least 150 in 1 hour, who would you pick and why? Or, who was your biggest influence when you were 18?

Key Verse: *I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.* Nehemiah 2:18

Nehemiah's time and ours have this in common: We have a generation of young people who are skeptical about our faith. They hear us talking a lot about the goodness and power of God, but they don't see us doing much. Nehemiah gave us the example to follow. He saw the problem and got very honest about what was broken. That is vital for us. If the church ignores the problems in our communities, we forfeit the right to have any influence in our communities.

Nehemiah was brokenhearted over the need and immediately realized he needed to renew his own relationship with God. As he fasted and prayed, God gave him the confidence and wisdom to act with urgency. He believed God but didn't just sit around waiting for a miracle. Though he was not a spiritual leader in Jerusalem at that point in time, he decided to leverage the platform he did have to help hurting people. He risked his privilege, position, and power because he believed the people were worth it. Nehemiah left his comfort zone and went to Jerusalem in person. He got involved at a very practical level.

Like Nehemiah, the closer we get to the brokenness the more impact we will have. Our communities are full of kids who see brokenness everywhere they look. We need to start measuring the success of NewPointe by how many of us are willing to show up in the lives of others, particularly our kids and teenagers. We need to give every kid an adult who will show them who Jesus is. There is a generation watching, waiting to see how close we are willing to get. The best chance any kid will have to experience God's love is consistent interaction with a caring adult. We can do this. Let us start rebuilding.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

"There was a generation sitting in the ruins of Jerusalem who had become disillusioned with their parents' and grandparents' version of God." What relevance does that have to us?

"There are people who make things happen, people who watch things happen, and there are people who wonder what happened. To be successful, you need to be a person who makes things happen" (John Lovell). Discuss.

"Sometimes step one is just being honest about what's broken." Reflect. How does that apply to our community?

"What we do when we get disturbing news determines our character." Reflect. Discuss.

"We don't have influence because we are right but because we care."

LOOK IT OVER <<<

"If you come to a place where you need a breakthrough and it is not happening, the solution is prayer and fasting." What personal experience do you have in this area?

"Time and transparency with God build trust. You won't trust someone you don't know." Discuss.

"Fasting disconnects us from the things of the world." How does this help us not ignore what is broken?"

"It's okay to expect a miracle, but it's not okay to wait for one." Agree/Disagree? Why?

"Your responsibility has nothing to do with your profession. Just because you are not the pastor does not mean you are not responsible for the people in this community. We are responsible for engaging in a broken world, not because it is in our job description but because we are God's people. We leverage all we have, not because we are trying to be good people but because we are God's people." Discuss.

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Name the problem.
- 2) Use whatever you have available.
- 3) Get involved.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: How we work together will change the way a generation sees God.

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: Nehemiah 1:4

Tuesday: Nehemiah 1:11b

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 5:20

Thursday: Isaiah 6:8

Friday: 1 Thessalonians 2:8

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)