

ENCOUNTERS OF THE MOST AMAZING KIND (LIFE GROUP LESSON 4) BUILDING THE WALLS

Introduction: In today's lesson we learned about how Nehemiah went from a bystander to an intercessor. This intercession led him to return to Jerusalem and help the Jewish people rebuild the wall, which symbolized protection, identity, provision, and purpose. We compared this to our situation today, in which so many people are living with devastated lives and need people who would help rebuild the walls of missing and broken things.

1. **Icebreaker.** We talked about purpose in this sermon. Someone said that a step to defining your purpose is to answer the questions: What makes you cry? What makes you dream? What makes you sing? Share answers to these questions with your group.

2. We compared the situation in Nehemiah's day to our current situation with families in this pandemic. The broken wall represented losses and things missing, that allowed the enemy to move-in to rob, kill, and destroy. What are some ways you see the enemy trying to take advantage of this current crisis to ruin people's lives? What are missing pieces that we could help fill-in?

3. The first step Nehemiah took towards becoming a wall builder and moving from bystander to intercessor was to let God put a burden of compassion in his heart that caused him to feel a broken heart for people in need. Have you ever had your heart moved with compassion in a way you felt you had to do something? Tell us about it.

4. We talked about what causes a burden to lead to a breakthrough and said that prayer was the key to moving heartbreaking situations into places God intervenes. Which of the 6 things we see modeled in Nehemiah's prayer, in Nehemiah 1 really resonates with something you've felt recently in how God wanted you to pray:
 - a. Nehemiah just wept and poured his heart out to God.
 - b. He put His prayer in the bigger framework of how awesome God is.
 - c. Confess completely and freely our sins and those of our families and nation
 - d. Remind God and ourselves of His promises.
 - e. Ask bold prayers especially for favor and opportunity to make a difference.
 - f. Pray in boldness to confront the enemy.

5. In Nehemiah 4:14-20, we see the turning point came when the people united in prayer to defend themselves against the enemy and work together to rebuild the broken places in their city. Have you had an experience of the power of friends in the Lord, gathering around you to fight with you and for you for victory? How did that turn the tide?

6. Dale put out a challenge asking you to find some prayer partners that you touch base with on a weekly basis over the next 52 days to contend for each other's victory. The prayer

challenge was to pray for protection, restoration, and purpose for our lives during this time.
Ask each other what areas of protection, restoration, and purpose they would like prayer.