

NEHEMIAH



Re: BUILD
Re: NEW
Re: FORM

Re: GROUP

Discussion Guide: Rebuilding Justice and Compassion (Nehemiah 5)

Main Idea:

Nehemiah faced not only external opposition but internal injustice among God's people. While some took advantage of others during a famine, Nehemiah modeled righteous leadership—confronting sin, calling for repentance, and leading with integrity and sacrifice. His example points us to Jesus, who gave of Himself to lift up the broken.

Scripture Focus:

Nehemiah 5:1-19

Exodus 22:25-27

Leviticus 25:25-28

Proverbs 16:32

Opening Reflection:

Take a moment to reflect:

- What stood out most to you in this message?
- Have you ever experienced or witnessed someone being taken advantage of during hard times? How did that situation get addressed—or not?

Discussion Questions:

1. Public Outcry & Family Desperation (Nehemiah 5:1-5)

- What does the outcry of the people reveal about their condition and relationships with one another?
- Have you ever been in a desperate situation where you expected support but instead faced exploitation?
- How does prolonged disobedience (past or present) contribute to the suffering we see in families and communities?
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2. Confronting Injustice (Nehemiah 5:6-13)

- How did Nehemiah handle his anger in verse 7? What can we learn about dealing with righteous anger?
- Why is it important that Nehemiah made the leaders answer publicly?

- Have you ever needed to confront someone in a godly way? What did you learn from that experience?

3. Restoring Justice and Obedience

- Nehemiah called the people back to God's covenant—especially around issues like interest, land, and servanthood. Why were those laws important to God?
- What principles from God's law (e.g., compassion, restoration, mercy) should shape how we handle people in crisis today?

4. Leading by Sacrifice (Nehemiah 5:14–19)

- How does Nehemiah's refusal to burden the people challenge today's leadership models?
- In what ways can you use your resources to bless others, especially the vulnerable?
- Nehemiah asked God to remember him (v. 19). Do you think that's a selfish request or a godly one? Why?

Application Questions:

- Is there someone I need to make things right with financially, relationally, or spiritually?
- What burden am I willing to carry to lift someone else's?
- How can I lead (in my family, church, work, or community) in a way that reflects the sacrificial love of Christ?

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to give you the courage to confront injustice and the humility to repent where necessary.
- Pray for wisdom to lead others with integrity, compassion, and a deep fear of the Lord.
- Thank God for Jesus—the perfect leader—who gave Himself for us when we were helpless.

Challenge for the Week:

Find one practical way to serve someone *sacrificially* this week—whether through time, resources, or advocacy. Do it quietly, as Nehemiah did, trusting God to remember and reward in His time.