

Tears on My Pillow Discussion Questions

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Nehemiah Chapter 5

The two sides are embroiled in a tense standoff. The crowd is cheering the home side on until suddenly they shift their allegiances. They begin to hinder the success of their own team by setting up obstacles to their advancement. This seems like an unlikely scenario until you open the book of Nehemiah in the Old Testament and discovered that this is exactly what is being played out in the fifth chapter. The Israelite people, under Nehemiah's leadership are at work on the wall, a rebuilding project that they hope will restore the glory of God to the holy city of Jerusalem but they face opposition from outside forces. At least that was to be expected, but to then face adversity from your own people? Opposition from within your own ranks? Join us as we discover how God uses Nehemiah to lead His people through even the most unlikely of circumstances in "Tears on my Pillow".

Read together with your group Nehemiah chapter 5.

Discussion Questions

1. With the background given about the circumstances in the book of Nehemiah, are you challenged with the scope of Nehemiah's faith? He risked to ask the king for a lot as he felt "called" to the city of Jerusalem. How big is your faith? Discuss with your group things that are stirring in you. What is on your mind that you hesitate to bring before God? Do you put God in a box (limit what He can do in your life and in your day to day activity)?
2. Discuss a situation when you have faced opposition from someone that you thought was an ally, someone who you thought was a supporter. Have you ever felt betrayed by someone? Describe the feelings and the situation with your group.
3. Can you think of circumstances in our society now where people are intentionally taking advantage of those who are poor, needy or vulnerable? What do you think our call as Christ followers is to those who are oppressed in our world in 2008?
4. Can you think of a time when you have been the one who has taken advantage of someone? Describe the situation and how it played out for you and the person involved. Did you go through the steps once you were convicted of this behaviour of repenting, asking forgiveness and making amends? If not, what is stopping you?
5. How are you using the resources God has given you to be a blessing to those who are involved in the work of "building the wall" ? Describe ways that you encourage and support people in your life.

Pray for one another as you seek to let God work in your life from this study in Nehemiah chapter 5.