

## Small Group Guide: Fitting In

**Key Scripture:** Nehemiah 7

**Opening Question:** Pastor Dan began his sermon with a light-hearted baseball analogy. What hobby or interest do you have that you can use humorously to explain something about your faith or life in general?

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. God uses different types of people with various spiritual gifts to build His church.
2. Our actions and choices today can have an impact on future generations.
3. Everyone has a role to play in the body of Christ and the work of God's kingdom.
4. Serving in the church is an essential part of spiritual growth and community building.

### **Bible Study & Discussion Questions:**

1. Pastor Dan mentioned three spiritual giftedness types from the Old Testament:
  - Prophetic in nature: You love ideas, concepts, doctrine, Scripture, writing, speaking and teaching. You are not afraid of conflict and controversy.
  - Priestly in nature: You love people. You tend to be merciful, patient, and compassionate.
  - Kingly in nature: You love systems, policies, procedures, technologies, real estate, efficiency, and organization.
  - *Which of these do you most identify with, and why?*
  - *According to 1 Peter 4:10, what are some reasons why God gives gifts and giftedness to His people?*
2. **Read Nehemiah 7:1-3.** This passage discusses the opening and guarding of gates. How might clear procedures and guidelines protect and aid the growth of a church community?
3. **In Nehemiah 7:1,** leaders like gatekeepers, singers, and Levites were *appointed*. How do these roles reflect the different functions within today's church? Which of these roles do you feel most aligns with your own spiritual gifts?
4. Pastor Dan talked about the importance of “gatekeepers” in creating a welcoming environment. How can we as individuals contribute to making our church more welcoming to newcomers?
5. **Read Nehemiah 7:5.** What does it mean for God to put a desire in someone's heart? How can we discern when God is placing a burden or calling on our hearts today?
6. The sermon emphasized that our decisions today can impact future generations. How does this perspective change the way you approach your daily life and choices?
7. What areas of service in the church are you most passionate about? How can you get more involved in those areas?
8. **Reflect on Nehemiah 7:70-71** where contributions were made for the work. How does this passage challenge or affirm your perspective on financial stewardship and giving within the church? How can we cultivate a spirit of generosity toward God's work?

## **Practical Applications:**

1. Take time this week to reflect on your spiritual gifts. If you're unsure, consider taking the spiritual gifts assessment at [rock.laurelridgechurch.org](http://rock.laurelridgechurch.org) (Login, or register. Then click “start spiritual gifts assessment” under the Assessments tab.)
2. Choose one area of church service mentioned in the sermon (e.g., greeters, community group leaders, care team) and commit to learning more about how you can get involved.
3. Evaluate your giving habits. Are they reflective of your priorities and love for God? Consider making adjustments if necessary, or choose to attend 3rd Base of Growth Pathway for more guidance on this topic.
4. Look for opportunities this week to be a “missionary” in your neighborhood or workplace by showing Christ's love to others.
5. If you haven't already, consider joining or starting a community group to foster deeper connections and spiritual growth.
6. Pray for God to reveal how He wants to use you in building His church and impacting future generations.

**Closing Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for the time we've spent together exploring Nehemiah's journey and Your Word. Help us embrace the roles and gifts You've given us to serve and build our community. Guide us in aligning our desires with Yours, cultivating generosity in our hearts, and living as faithful stewards of Your blessings. May our lives reflect Your love and truth, impacting future generations for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.