

RISE & REBUILD

Week 5 Group Discussion Guide

The Next Generation

Big Idea: God has always used ordinary people to carry His work forward, and every generation has a responsibility to testify to His faithfulness and help the next generation trust Him.

Read Together

Nehemiah 2:1–8

Psalm 145:1–7

Romans 15:4–6

Digging Into the Text

1. God's gracious hand goes before us.

Read Nehemiah 2:8.

At the beginning of the series, we saw Nehemiah encounter a situation that had been broken long before he arrived. Rather than using that brokenness as an excuse, he prayed, trusted God, and stepped faithfully into what God placed before him.

- What did Nehemiah inherit that he had no part in breaking?
- What gave him confidence to believe something could change?
- Why is it significant that Nehemiah credits God's gracious hand rather than his own courage or leadership?
- What brokenness has our generation inherited?
- How can we respond differently when we believe God's gracious hand is already at work?

Key Statement: The gracious hand of God always goes before the faithful hands of His people.

2. Brokenness does not disqualify a generation.

Nehemiah could have looked at Jerusalem and decided the problem was too old, too large, or too complicated for him.

Instead, he allowed God to use him.

- What excuses are easy to make when a problem feels bigger than us?
- How can age become an excuse—whether we believe we're too young or too old for God to use us?
- Where do you see young people facing fear, division, uncertainty, or discouragement today?
- What would it look like for the next generation to pray about what is broken rather than simply complain about it?

Key Statement: You can be the generation that prays about what is broken and allows God to use you to rebuild.

3. One generation tells the next.

Read Psalm 145:4–7.

“One generation will declare your works to the next and will proclaim your mighty acts.”

Notice what one generation passes to the next in this Psalm: **the story of what God has done.**

- Why is telling the next generation about God's faithfulness so important?
- What is the difference between passing down religious traditions and helping someone actually know and trust God?
- Who helped pass faith to you?
- What did they do that made their influence meaningful?
- What responsibility does the younger generation have when faith is entrusted to them?

Key Statement: One generation doesn't take over from another. One generation discipless the next.

4. Your story can impact generations.

This week's message included a personal testimony of parents, church, camp, mentors, prayer, baptism, and other people God used along the way.

None of those influences existed in isolation.

Together they became part of a story of God's gracious hand.

- Who are some of the people God used to shape your faith?
- Where can you now recognize God's gracious hand in your own story?
- Why is it important to tell those stories rather than keep them to ourselves?
- Who is one person in a younger generation whom you could intentionally encourage or invest in?
- If you're younger, who is someone from an older generation whose wisdom and faith you could intentionally seek?

Key Statement: Your story can impact generations.

Living It Out

The sermon ends where much of Nehemiah has lived: **dependence upon God.**

Nehemiah faced battles he couldn't control. So will we.

Read Nehemiah 4:14: “Remember the great and awe-inspiring Lord...”

Discuss together:

- What battle or uncertainty are you facing right now?
- When you face something bigger than yourself, what is your natural response?
- What changes when we view the battle through the greatness of God rather than viewing God through the size of the battle?
- How can Christian community help remind us that we don't face our battles alone?

Key Statement: The battle may be bigger than you, but it will never be bigger than God.

Prayer Together

Thank God for previous generations. Thank Him for parents, grandparents, teachers, ministers, mentors, friends, and others who helped you know Jesus. Share names where appropriate and thank God specifically for them.

Pray for the next generation. Pray that young people would know they are not merely the future of the church—they belong to the church now. Pray that they would recognize God's gracious hand, hear His calling, and courageously step into His work.

Pray for one another's battles. Give people an opportunity to name something they are carrying right now. Pray against fear and discouragement and ask God to deepen your dependence upon Him.

Pray for Skyline. Ask God to make us a genuinely intergenerational church where older believers invest in younger believers and younger believers receive, live, and carry the faith forward.

Weekly Challenge

Identify **one person from another generation** this week.

If they're younger than you, encourage them. Ask about their life. Listen. Pray for them. Tell them something you've seen God do.

If they're older than you, seek them out. Ask them where they've seen God's faithfulness. Listen to their story.

Then remember Psalm 145:

“One generation will declare your works to the next.”

We don't pass down a testimony about how great **we** were.

We pass down the testimony of how faithful **God** has always been.