

RISE & REBUILD

Week 4 Group Discussion Guide

Mission Inward: Nehemiah 10–12

Big Idea

God rebuilds His community through people willing to belong, sacrifice, worship, and point others toward Jesus.

Read Together

Nehemiah 10:28–39

Nehemiah 11:1–2

Nehemiah 12:27–43

Optional background: Nehemiah 7:4–5, 66–73

Digging Into the Text

1. God was rebuilding more than a wall.

By this point in Nehemiah, the wall has been completed, God's Word has been read, the people have confessed their sin, and they have renewed their commitment to obey God.

Yet Nehemiah 7 tells us there is still a problem:

Nehemiah 7:4

“The city was large and spacious, but there were few people in it, and the houses had not yet been rebuilt.”

The wall could protect Jerusalem, but a wall by itself could not make Jerusalem a living community.

- Why do you think rebuilding the people was just as important as rebuilding the wall?
- What makes a group of people into a genuine spiritual community rather than simply people who gather in the same place?
- How does Romans 15:4–6 describe the kind of community God desires to form?

Key Statement: The wall protected the city, but the people made it a city.

2. God's Word becomes the catalyst for community change.

Notice the progression through these chapters:

The community is identified. — Nehemiah 7

God's Word is heard. — Nehemiah 8

Sin is confessed. — Nehemiah 9

Commitments are made. — Nehemiah 10

The city is inhabited. — Nehemiah 11

God's Word did not simply give the people information. It began reshaping the way they lived together.

- What changes when Scripture moves from something we hear to something we actually obey?
- Why should an encounter with God's Word affect the way we relate to other people?
- Which commitments in Nehemiah 10 required the people to change everyday habits, priorities, or relationships?
- What might it look like for God's Word to reshape our life together as a church?

Key Statement: God's Word was not simply forming individual believers. It was forming a community.

3. Community requires sacrifice.

Read Nehemiah 11:1–2.

“The rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten of them to live in Jerusalem... The people commended all who volunteered to live in Jerusalem.”

Moving into Jerusalem required real sacrifice.

Some would leave ancestral property.

Some would leave familiar towns.

Some would move into a city still recovering from devastation.

Some were selected.

Others volunteered.

But God's restored city needed God's people willing to inhabit it.

- Why do you think living in Jerusalem would have required sacrifice?
- What does this teach us about belonging to the community of God's people?
- Why is genuine Christian community difficult if everyone approaches it primarily asking, “What is most convenient for me?”
- What have you willingly sacrificed because belonging to God's people mattered more?

Key Question: What are we willing to sacrifice for the community of God's people?

4. God's community is meant to point people toward Jesus.

The returned exiles could not have known the full significance of what God was preserving through them. Yet Matthew's genealogy includes Zerubbabel among the ancestors leading eventually to Jesus.

Read Matthew 1:12–16.

God was preserving a people. A lineage. A promise. A story that ultimately leads to Christ.

- How does knowing the larger biblical story change the way you view the ordinary faithfulness of these people?
- Why might something that seems small in our generation matter greatly in a generation we may never see?
- How should the life of a church community help people encounter Jesus?
- What would it look like for someone to observe our relationships and be pointed toward Christ?

Key Statement: God's community is designed to lead others to Jesus.

5. God's community celebrates together.

Read Nehemiah 12:27–43.

The story that began with Nehemiah weeping over broken walls reaches a moment where God's people stand on those restored walls worshiping together.

Nehemiah 12:43

“On that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them great joy... The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.”

Men.

Women.

Children.

Leaders.

Musicians.

One community celebrating the faithfulness of God.

- What were the people actually celebrating?
- Why is shared worship an important part of shared mission?
- What does it mean that their rejoicing “could be heard far away”?
- How can the joy of a healthy Christian community itself become a witness?

Living It Out

The people of Nehemiah discovered that restoration required more than rebuilding structures.

Someone had to inhabit the city.

Someone had to sacrifice.

Someone had to participate.

Someone had to worship.

Someone had to carry God's faithfulness into another generation.

Reflect together:

- Am I primarily attending Christian community, or am I genuinely belonging to it?
- Where might God be asking me to move from convenience toward sacrifice?
- What part of the life of God's people has He entrusted to me?
- How is my participation helping others encounter Jesus?
- What evidence of God's faithfulness should our community be celebrating together?

Prayer Together

Thank God

- Thank Him for preserving His people throughout Scripture.
- Thank Him for the people who have faithfully helped form your own faith.
- Thank Him that His plan ultimately leads us to Jesus.

Pray for Community

- Ask God to make Skyline a people who genuinely belong to one another.
- Pray for willingness to sacrifice personal convenience for the good of the body.
- Pray that God's Word would continually reshape the way we live together.

Pray for Mission

- Ask God to make our community a clear witness to Jesus.
- Pray that the next generation would inherit more than programs or buildings—they would inherit a living testimony of God's faithfulness.

Pray for Joy

- Ask God to make our worship and life together overflow with gratitude.
- Pray that our joy in God's goodness would be noticeable “far away.”

Weekly Challenge

Ask yourself this question each day: **What am I contributing to the life of God's people?**

Look for one intentional way this week to strengthen Christian community:

- Encourage someone.
- Serve someone.
- Invite someone.
- Sacrifice for someone.
- Pray with someone.
- Celebrate what God is doing in someone.

God does not simply rebuild places. He rebuilds a people who live together for His glory.