

## **Sermon Series: Revive!**

### **Nehemiah 3:1-32 The Power of All**

#### **Conversation Starter: Next to them...**

While last time we were together, we talked about a big project you undertook and we looked at all the parts that were required for you to do it, this time we want to talk about a big job (whether it is the same or different), but focus on the people who were involved in that work with you? Who else was involved? What was their contribution? How would your work have been more difficult or even impossible if they hadn't been involved?

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#### **Rebuilding the Walls (Nehemiah 3:1-32)**

In verse 1, we see that Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests participated in the rebuilding effort. How does it make you feel when you see spiritual leaders "rolling up their sleeves" and partnering in the work? Why is the participation of spiritual leaders vital to the work (beyond the planning) in communal labors?

The high priests consecrated the Sheep gate, and part of the wall. What does it mean to consecrate something?

What are all the different ranks, classes, and types of people listed in the work? What does that mean to us today?

The phrase "next to them" is repeated several times in this passage. What is significant to you about this phrase?

How do you see this passage exemplify the teaching of 1 Cor. 12 that compares the church to a body?

In verse 5, we see that not everybody joined in the work. The same is true in spiritual labors today. It's vital to assess whether you are someone who joins in or chooses not to join in the work. What do you see people forsaking when they choose not to participate in what God is

doing?

We see that much of the work was accomplished by people across from their own respective houses. What can we apply from this to our own part in Kingdom work today?

What is your "take away" from this chapter and our time together?

The following pages  
are for small group leaders.

## Sermon Series: Revive!

### Nehemiah 3:1-32 The Power of All

#### Small Group Leader Guide

#### Prepare: Things to do before your small group gets together

- **Think** of times, circumstances, or opportunities you have where you are part of a group working together to accomplish something that would be seemingly impossible on your own. What part did you contribute? Who else was involved? How did they get involved? **Thank** God for putting you in circumstances where you have to partner together, and for God's provision of other people in your life to accomplish the work you can't do by yourself.
- **Review** Nehemiah 3:1-32 to review the content of the biblical focus. **Invite** God to speak to you with a fresh application of His timeless truth. **Ask** God to give you wisdom in teaching His message of grace and restoration to your small group. **Submit** your heart to God's conviction, that you may be exhorted to experience anew the timely activity of God's Holy Spirit in your life.
- **Preview** this material and engage with God's Spirit as He guides your study.
- **Pray** for your small group members by name, asking God to reveal a meaningful appreciation for their part in the family of God. **Seek** God's wisdom in leading your small group to apply God's word to their lives. **Commit** yourself to the Lord, that you would live what you teach.

#### To The Point - What to impart to your small group

**Key Verses:** "And next to them... (multiple times throughout Nehemiah 3)

**Objectives:** Through your time exploring this passage, your small group members will:

**Discuss** the rebuilding effort as it is detailed in Nehemiah 3.

**Recognize** the people God has put beside you, and those He has placed you alongside, with whom you are called to partner.

**Determine** to take responsibility for your part in the work that God has for you.

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#### Encounter: A suggested plan for your small group experience

#### Conversation Starter: Next to them...

##### Ask

While last time we were together, we talked about a big project you undertook and we looked at all the parts that were required for you to do it, this time we want to talk about a big job (whether it is the same or different), but focus on the people who were involved in that work with you? Who else was involved? What was their contribution? How would your work have been more difficult or even impossible if they hadn't been involved.

## Say

Reading through Nehemiah 3 may seem like an exercise in tedium because at first glance, it looks like a "dry" report of people who were involved in the work of the rebuilding. However, there are some details included here that are hidden in plain sight that offer insight and application to us in our own rebuilding efforts. God offers them to us for our benefit and use.

Open in prayer for your time together.

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## Rebuilding the Walls (Nehemiah 3:1-32)

### Say

We've read this entire passage and are going to "work through it" to discover what God has for us to apply to our lives today.

### Ask

In verse 1, we see that Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests participated in the rebuilding effort. How does it make you feel when you see spiritual leaders "rolling up their sleeves" and partnering in the work? Why is the participation of spiritual leaders vital to the work (beyond the planning) in communal labors?

Allow the group to respond.

The high priests consecrated the Sheep gate, and part of the wall. What does it mean to consecrate something? How can you consecrate your part of a spiritual labor?

To consecrate means "to make holy." Specifically, the high priests dedicated themselves, their labor, and the gate and wall to the Lord.

For us today, consecration begins with the understanding that the believer is already consecrated to the Lord. He is saved, redeemed, restored to good standing with God. The believer's identity is secure. The believer's body is the dwelling place of God's **Holy** Spirit. As a person embraces the spiritual reality of being identified as holy, the person is freed and empowered to do holy things. The "holy things" a believer does is anything done in response to the Holy Spirit's prompting. Talking to a friend about Jesus or other spiritual matters, praying for others, serving behind the scenes, loving with compassion...anything done to glorify God and magnify Jesus are works that are consecrated.

What are all the different ranks, classes, and types of people listed in the work? What does that mean to us today?

The list of workers includes:

- high priest and brothers
- governor
- mighty men (military)

- men
- son
- dads
- daughters
- ruler
- temple servants
- goldsmiths
- merchants

This tells us that everyone of all social rank, of political power, of spiritual authority, and of family structure participated. There was ample cause to divide and disagree, yet they were united by the cause, and by the work. The completion of the work promised benefit to all, and others who would come later.

The phrase "next to them" is repeated several times in this passage. What is significant to you about this phrase?

Allow the group to respond. Typical responses may include:

- Nehemiah wasn't alone doing the work, nor was any other person.
- They worked beside each other. Nobody was isolated or excluded in their labors.
- They all were taking responsibility for their part in a larger work. Together, their labors resulted in a significant result.

How do you see this passage exemplify the teaching of 1 Cor. 12 that compares the church to a body?

Responses may include:

- Every part of the work is important to the entire effort.
- Some labors get more attention than others, or seem more prominent than others.
- People are assigned, appointed, or guided to their responsibilities and are equipped to succeed.

In verse 5, we see that not everybody joined in the work. The same is true in spiritual labors today. It's vital to assess whether you are someone who joins in or chooses not to join in the work. What do you see people forsaking when they choose not to participate in what God is doing?

Responses may include:

- They miss out on being used by God.
- They miss out on the fellowship of God's Spirit.
- They miss out in being part of the joy of Kingdom advance.
- They miss out in being included in active Christian community.
- They miss out on seeing God change lives and perform miracles.
- They miss out on being part of the legacy that impacts generations and eternity.

We see that much of the work was accomplished by people across from their own respective houses. What can we apply from this to our own part in Kingdom work today?

There is Kingdom work of rebuilding, repairing, and building lives and relationships in our own circles of influence. God desires to be active in the lives of people we interact with on a regular basis, and to use you in His work.

### **Say**

Even a chapter that you might be tempted to "gloss over" has important truth and timeless application. In closing, ask God to show you your part of work that He is doing now. Where can you be involved? What can you do? What benefit can you see? Consecrate yourself to the Lord, and the work He leads you to do to His glory!

### **Ask**

What is your "take away" from this chapter and our time together?

Allow group members to share their insights

Let's close in prayer:

Invite the group to pray for one another. Pray over any needs or issues that were shared in your time together. Pray over the content discussed in your small group, highlighting the aspects that God's Spirit revealed to your group as important. Confirm your plans for your next gathering!