

GBC Discipleship RESOURCE



Renovation: Rebuilding for Purpose

Week 04 | Those Who Say Yes (Nehemiah 3:1-12)

For a brief overview of why (and how) to engage in each of these practices, you can read the Guideline For Growing on our website.

<https://www.gymeabaptist.org.au/growing/pages/guideline-for-growing>

WHAT IS A DISCIPLESHIP MENU?

A discipleship menu is a selection of discipleship activities to engage in to continue the conversation that begins on Sunday throughout the week. The aim is to extend our interaction as a community of faith around activities that help us follow Jesus every single day. The activities vary from week to week (though there are some standard activities) and you are encouraged to do as many as you find helpful (like a menu; you don't need to eat everything on it!). Do them on your own (God and you), with a couple of friends (you and a few), or in a Life Group (you and a crew). The important thing is to do a few!

GBC SERMON PODCAST AND THE BIG 3 PODCAST

Don't forget you can review this week's sermon on the GBC Sermon Podcast. The sermon is usually uploaded by Monday afternoon. You can also listen in to the Big 3 podcast; a weekly podcast where Matt, Jess, and Marc sit down and continue the conversation by engaging in three big questions raised by the congregation about the sermon. The Big 3 comes out on Wednesdays.

OVERVIEW

Nehemiah 3 is a witness to future generations of who got involved in the plans and purposes of God in repairing the wall of Jerusalem. The restoration of the wall was about much more than protection or civic pride, but was a symbol of God's ongoing favour and blessing on his people.

The list of forty-five groups of people who repaired forty-five sections of the wall is recorded against the backdrop of the mysterious interaction between human and divine activity. On the one hand, there would have been a tremendous amount of logistical effort required to organise, resource, and enable forty-five groups of people. This important work is, nonetheless, unmentioned. On the other hand, the people experience a unity that we must ascribe to God's activity. This unity, which was not perfect (see Neh. 3:5b), was especially noteworthy given the political nature of their task; the wall was not a politically neutral activity.

And these observations draw attention to the principle: when God's people are united around God's purposes things happen. The people of Judah rebuild the wall, in the face of extraordinary pressure, in fifty-two days. Along the way, they also experience a revival in their commitment to their purpose as the people of God (but we'll get to that in the weeks to come...).

Every community of faith has their list of people who joined in God's invitation and we are no different. As we begin the next chapter of our story,

we are seeking clarity around God's invitation and there is work to do; the work of prayer. This is reflected in our discipleship activities this week.

PASSAGES TO READ

We believe that the Word of God is living and active and that reading and reflecting on it is one way we encounter God. As you read, we encourage people to ask a set of simple questions: What stands out to you? What questions do you have? What is the invitation of God to you? Who can you tell?

The passages this week have been chosen because they reflect the necessity of our hard work and diligence in all things, even as we rely on God's work.

- Deuteronomy 6:4-12
- Colossians 3:18-25 (Don't let the household code distract you, consider the context of family life for the command of 3:23).
- Matthew 25:31-46
- Luke 19:11-27

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON

These questions can be used as the basis of a small group discussion or as journal questions. As with the rest of this menu, use the questions that are most useful for you or your crew.

1. List some of the background work that you believe contributes to our ability to identify and join in with God's purposes as individuals and as a group.
2. The unity of the people in the face of opposition was a sign of God's unnamed activity in Nehemiah 3. What are other indicators that God is at work in our lives?

3. The list of people who repaired a section of the wall functions as a testimony to future generations of a group of people, united by God, who joined in his work and saw amazing things happen. Who is on your list of people whose actions have been a testimony to you?

A PRAYER TO PRAY

These are the areas of prayer that are listed in The Long Read for our discernment process as a congregation. Commit to pray through these.

- Thanks for the ways our community of faith has responded to God's invitation in the past.
- Thanks for God's faithfulness to our community of faith.
- That God would move our hearts for his purposes and plans.
- That God would fulfill his word to us to build his church and make all things new.
- That we would fulfill our mission, vision, and purpose.
- That we would genuinely be indifferent; open to hear God's "now" invitation.
- For the appointment of the Discernment Group.
- For our Day of Discernment on Saturday September 17; that we would be unified and truly see God at work in this process.