

GBC Discipleship RESOURCE



Renovation: Rebuilding for Purpose

Week 09 | Appointed to God's Purpose (Nehemiah 7:1-5)

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 GBC 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 GBC 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 GBC Big 3 comes out on Wednesdays.

Overview

The purposes of God are more than tasks we complete in order to contribute to a project, whether that be the rebuilding of Jerusalem's lives or something practical within our own lives. The purposes of God exist within his people, and as followers of Jesus we are appointed to be living representatives of God's purposes, in everything we do and everywhere we go. As with all positions, there are expectations of who we are to live as representatives of God's purposes.

It starts with the way we care for people. We are called to be holistic in our love and protection of the people that God places in our lives. Too often we can project our own understandings and experiences onto people, causing us to get tunnel vision about what they might need. Our care of people needs to be all encompassing and all inclusive.

We are also expected to have an integrated character, intertwined with the character of God. This is not about striving for perfection or doing all the 'right' things that make us look worthy. Nehemiah demonstrates that it is the stillness, in the practices that are silent, in which we create space for God to reveal himself. The more we know of God, the more his character becomes entangled in our own, forming a character of integrity.

Finally, we need to expect that there will be a cost to being appointed to the purposes of God. IN a world that priorities comfort and things that make us feel in control of our future, God calls us into something different. He calls us into new experiences and new environments, sometimes at the cost of our comfort and sense of certainty. But as we step into the unknow, we open ourselves to the very work of God, the wonder that it creates.

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 expectations of those appointed to God's purpose are not only found in the book of Nehemiah, but also in the teaching of Jesus. Read John 10:1-18 and Matthew 25:31-46. What can you see of the call for care, character, and cost in the teachings of Jesus?

Steeping into Purpose

Take a moment this week to self-reflect. As someone appointed to God's purposes, consider what expectations you need to live out this week. Is there someone in your life needing of holistic care? or is God inviting you to be still and know him more? or is there a cost you need to pay, some comfort or sense of certainty? In this time of quiet reflection, write down any thoughts or invitations you feel from the Holy Spirit. Use this challenge as a starting point to live out God's purposes in your everyday.

A Prayer to Pray

Spend some time in confession, acknowledging that we will always fall short of God's plans for our lives. Remember that that God is our safe space, our refuge, always full of love and grace. We can confess to him without shame but be freely known and transformed into his plans and purposes.