

Home Group Questions

the week of 05/19/2019

Nehemiah 1-2; Various Passages

NEHEMIAH – FINDING GOD’S WILL

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on “Ordinary Superheroes” as he taught on the life of Nehemiah and lessons we can learn from him about finding God’s will in the major decisions of life. Begin your time by sharing some of the major decisions that you have faced more recently in your life.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Nehemiah was a great leader (444 B.C.) who sought God’s direction regarding a plan he felt led to implement. He returned to Jerusalem after leaving his position as the cup bearer for the King of Persia. God blessed his decision to leave and work to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem as he did so in only 52 days.

2. Read Nehemiah 1:1-11. As you read the passage, share insights into what struggles Nehemiah might have been going through as he heard of the situation back in Jerusalem. Nehemiah had a desired position as the cup bearer for the King. He always had a place to stay and always had food to eat, which was not the case for many of the Jewish slaves in exile. His decision to leave was a risk.

3. Pastor Mel shared that one of the best strategies in knowing the will of God is to be connected to God in your daily walk now. **Read Proverbs 3:5-6.** This is a familiar passage that relates to involving God in our lives. How do you live out the two truths of “Trusting God” and “Acknowledging God” in your life?

Perhaps the best translation of “yawshar” (sometimes translated “direct”) in the Hebrew is “to make your paths straight.”

What do you think that means when compared to walking a path that is crooked and treacherous? What is God promising to do when He says He will make our paths straight?

4. When you face a major decision, it’s always a good thing to invite God into the decision making process early.

The sermon highlighted a few initial, practical steps for doing this. Discuss these, reading the passages that go along with each strategy:

- 1. Ask the Lord for His wisdom. James 1:5**
- 2. Pray specifically. Nehemiah 1:4-11; Phil. 4:6-7**
- 3. Fast privately. Nehemiah 1:4**
- 4. Trust expectantly. Nehemiah 1:11; Colossians 3:15**

What are some attitudes, or distractions that get in the way of involving God early in the process of major decision making?

Share testimonies of decisions, either positive or negative, that might give further insight into the importance of involving God and His principles early in the decision making process.

5. The sermon highlighted the fact that God wants us to use our minds to research the facts that can help us make a wise decision.

Read Nehemiah 2:5-9 and Proverbs 13:16; 18:15. What are some principles you can glean from these verses? What could go wrong with the decision making process even after wise research and counsel? Do problems and struggles after making a decision prove that the decision was not God’s will? Why or why not?

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray for wisdom in making godly decisions. Pray that you would bring your decisions to God early in the process and involve Him in the finding of His will for your life.