

Name: _____

SMI Week 3

Day 1

Nehemiah 3:1-32

Read Nehemiah 3:1-32 and answer the following questions.

1. Do you prefer working by yourself or doing group projects? Why? What advantages are there to each?
2. What does this chapter say about the noblemen of Tekoa? Is this a big deal or not? Why? What do you learn about leadership from this?
3. What criteria did Nehemiah use when deciding who would work where (see vv. 10, 28, 30)? What lessons does this teach about ownership and teamwork?
4. What attitudes and actions from Nehemiah's team of wall-builders fit Christians who want to build the church? Which ones should Christians avoid?

Nehemiah 3:1-32

Read Nehemiah 3:1-32 and answer the following questions.

1. What do you learn from the fact that Nehemiah knew who worked “next to” whom? What does this tell you about the organization and cooperation involved in this nation-wide effort?
2. Why did Nehemiah and the people concentrate so intensely on the repair of Jerusalem’s gates?
3. Notice that Nehemiah is not mentioned in this chapter. What do you think he was doing while all the others were doing the work?
4. Read 1 Kings 5:1-18. What similarities do you see between Solomon’s building project (the temple) and Nehemiah’s project? What differences?
5. Who in our youth group can you get “next to” for the sake of teaming up to tackle some project that is bigger than the two of you? What projects/ ministries do you see around you that remain unfinished for lack of volunteers?

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-31.

1. How do Paul's words to the Corinthian church shed light on the events of Nehemiah 3?
2. What does verse 7 say is the purpose of our spiritual gifts?
3. Paul uses the analogy of the human body and compares it with the church. Do you think this is an effective analogy? Why or why not?
4. What does verse 25 say about unity and division? Why do Paul's words in this chapter lead to this conclusion? What can we learn about unity in our own group from this?
5. What does verse 26 say about suffering? Why is this true in human body? How is this statement also true in the church/ youth group?
6. John MacArthur said, "Essential to unity is diversity. Unity of spirit and purpose can be maintained only through diversity of ministry. But unity is not uniformity..." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? How does Nehemiah 3 illustrate this?

Nehemiah 3:1-32

Read Nehemiah 3:1-32 and answer the following questions.

1. What volunteers are described in verse 12? What was their position? Do you think it was significant that the daughters were involved? Why or why not?
2. What does this chapter teach you about accomplishing an overwhelming task? How could you apply this to SMI?
3. Read Proverbs 14:23. What does this verse say about the importance of hard work? What can you apply from this to SMI?
4. How would you assess your own participation in the ministries of our church? Are you a tireless worker or a slacker? If someone wrote a summary (similar to Neh. 3) of who is doing what in our church, would you be listed favorable or unfavorably? Why?
5. Based on the previous question, what can you do to improve your work ethic in ministry? In SMI?

Nehemiah 4:1-23

Read Nehemiah 4:1-23 and answer the following questions.

1. What do you consider some of the most blatant modern-day examples of opposition to God, His plan, or His people?

2. What kind of criticism or opposition is most difficult for you to take:

- criticism from strangers (perhaps unbelievers)?
- criticism from fellow church members?
- criticism from family members?
- other: _____(specify)?

Explain why that is most difficult:

3. Why do you think the people were facing such strong opposition to the building project?

4. According to verse 6, how much progress had the people made on the wall? What reason is given for this progress?

5. What was their first response when they faced opposition according to verse 4 and 9? How does this connect with what we saw from Nehemiah in Chapter 1?