

Staying on Mission Discussion Questions

Nehemiah 5-6

Opening the Discussion

1. Share something for which you are thankful for from this past week (family, faith, circumstances, events, problems, blessings, etc.).
2. As you reflect on the weekend message, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful or insightful?
3. What's one thing from the message you hope we talk about as a group?

Growing Deeper

1. Why is it less painful to be hurt by an enemy than to be hurt by a friend (see Psalm 41:9)?
2. Before Nehemiah responded to the strife among the people, he took time to process the situation. What are the benefits of mastering your feelings and pondering the situation before taking action? Why is this hard to do?
3. Pastor Brian said concerning God's family, "We must care for one another before we can hope to reach our neighbors and the nations for Christ." Why is this true and why is it so important?
4. What do we need to do so we can feel more love and compassion for the ones we are in conflict with?
5. Drawing a conclusion from Matthew 5:18, Pastor Brian made this statement: "We must take the initiative to restore relationships whether we want to or not." Why is this hard? Why is this necessary?
6. Why do people repeatedly ask you to do something when you have refused to do it before?
7. Why do people gossip and what damage does it create?
8. Nehemiah took care of his character and trusted God to take care of his reputation. What is the difference between character and reputation and which one is under your control?
9. How can seemingly nice people pull you away from God's priorities? What are some ways we can make sure this does not happen? How does Psalm 1 help with this?
10. What are some things that consistently distract you from God's priorities?

Words to Action

1. When there is strife with someone, what action steps does Ephesians 4:31-32 tell us to take?
2. What decisions should we make that would help us not let the wrong behaviors of others keep us from doing what we know is right?
3. Pastor Brian said, "Remember when God's priorities become our priorities, God's kingdom work will advance." What godly priorities need to be made or reinforced that will help us with the Grow Time Initiative?