



City life: crowds of people, traffic congestion, asphalt and concrete, schools, government, culture, community . . . All of us know what it's like to live in a city. But did you know that God is in the process of building a city of his own right in the midst of our city? Although the story of the Bible starts in the garden (Gen. 1-2), it ends in a city (Rev. 21). And in between God invites us to join him in building his city right where we live. How do we do this? What does this look like? How do we deal with opposition? These are just some of the questions we are going to answer as we dig into the book of Nehemiah. I hope you are ready to let God use you to build his city in our city!

**Discussion Questions:** (Leaders please review each question and pick those that will be most beneficial for your group.)

1. Read Nehemiah 5. In this chapter we learn that internal opposition - greed among God's people - is destroying God's city and impeding the work of God's people. What is greed? Is greed only associated with money? Explain.
2. In Nehemiah 5:1-5 we see four destructive effects of greed on God's city (a.k.a. his church). Are you a greedy person? Review each of these and honestly reflect on each question.
  - a) Greedy people breed division. How do you view yourself as superior to others in the body of Christ at Pathway?
  - b) Greedy people ignore real needs. How do you ignore the real needs of people in our body?
  - c) Greedy people are immune to the suffering of others. In what ways are you immune to the sufferings of others in our body?
  - d) Greedy people take advantage of others to advance their own self interest. Who have you taken advantage of physically, emotionally, financially, sexually? What has that cost them?
3. God uses Nehemiah to confront the destructive sin of greed (vv.6-13). In response to his rebuke, God's people repent of their sin of greed. Specifically, they face their greed, stop it, make restitution and recommit themselves again to the Lord. What will it look like for you to repent of your greed? To whom specifically do you need to go and make restitution?
4. Rather than being controlled by greed, in vv.14-18 Nehemiah shows us a great picture of what it looks like to live generously. To what extent are these marks of generosity evident in your life?
  - a. Willingly relinquish your rights, vv.14-15
  - b. Sacrifice personal gain for kingdom gain, v.16b
  - c. Practice hospitality, vv.17-18
5. In Nehemiah 5:19 we learn that Nehemiah's motivation for his generosity is not merit, but to please the Lord. Jesus talks about this same motivation in Matthew 6:24. Out of your love for the Lord, how will you use your money and possessions as an opportunity to show the grace and love of Jesus Christ to others?