

Small Group Study Guide

Watch Out for the Cracks in the Walls!

Series: Nehemiah Rebuilding a Life of Faith

Nehemiah 13:1-31

From Sunday November 8, 2020

Appetizer:

Activity: We have often heard stories of key Christian leaders who have recently had moral failures. Are there any of these stories that surprised you? What has been most disappointing about these stories to you?

Main Course:

Nehemiah had finished the walls and eventually went back to the city of Babylon in the service of the king. A few years later, he went back to Jerusalem and was dismayed at how the people had slid back into some bad habits.

Have someone read Nehemiah 13:1-31 What do you notice? What details stand out?

As Christians we are called to build lives of faith that endure. This means we have to be on the watch for decay—those things that we allow in our lives that slowly affect the integrity of our faith.

Think of a time when something you owned had some decay that you ignored. It might have been a car or a house, or something else. When did you realize that the decay had got too far? Were you ever to save it from destruction?

Question: There were four “cracks” in the faith of the people that Nehemiah discovered when he came back to Jerusalem:

1. **Entitlement**, where personal treatment matters more than your faith.
2. **A Lazy Generosity**, where your personal stuff matters more than your faith.
3. **Ignoring Sabbath**, where your personal schedule matters more than your faith.
4. **Compromising Values**, where your personal choices matter more than your faith.

Personal treatment. Personal stuff. Personal schedule. Personal choices.

Question: Out of all these areas, which one looks like the biggest threat to people’s faith today in Canada?

Question: Which “crack” are you most susceptible to? What have you had to watch out for in your own life. Why?

Dessert:

We desperately need examples of faith that endures. We have seen how cracks in the faith of people of God affects the entire Christian community, and the witness of the church.

Question: What are ways that we can avoid the cracks in the walls that Nehemiah discovers?

Activity: Although there have been disappointing stories about people who have had a moral failure, or did not have a faith that endures, we also all know of people who have continued to live faithfully over the years. Take a moment this week to pray for and write these examples of the faith, to thank them for their example, and to encourage them to continue to keep the faith.

Pray together as a small group that the Holy Spirit would empower everyone present to rise to the challenge of being an example of a faith that endures.