



Week 8 | Nehemiah | September 26

Key Focus: “We must not only be willing to confront sinful behavior, but we must confront the systems and environments that encourage sin.”

Opening Up:

- What kind of work environment brings out the best in you?
- Has work ever been fun, like playing a sport is fun?
- What would “winning” be like or feel like in your job?
- What kind of work environment brings out the worst in you?
- What negative traits about yourself show up when your work environment is bad?

Reference: Nehemiah 13

Discuss:

1. In Romans 7:21 Paul says that sinful rebellion is a law of life. Have you ever confronted a sinful pattern in your life only to see another sin take its place? What is that experience like?
2. Proverbs 28:13 says that we should not conceal our sins, we should confess our sins. What makes confessing sin hard? Who in your life can you confess sin to?
3. How has the Bible convicted you of sin and called you to repentance? In Nehemiah 13:1-3 the word is read and people repented of their sin.
4. What are the consequences of your word being the final word?
5. Have you ever met someone who could never be confronted about their sin? What makes that relationship hard? Who has a (sin) hunting license in your life?
6. Does knowing you have sinned or being confronted about your sin hurt more? Why? What does this say about the human condition?
7. Ephesians 4:27 says that we should not give the devil an opportunity. Paul says in Romans 7:11 that the power of sin in our lives is very opportunistic. What kinds of environments expose you to the enemy and pose the highest risk of enabling your sin?
8. In Nehemiah 13 Nehemiah cleanses the temple just like Jesus would later do in John 2:15. Nehemiah threw out the sinful stuff. If you viewed yourself as God’s temple (1 Corinthians 6:19) and if you were to take action in your life to cleanse God’s temple, what would need to be cleansed?
9. In the end, Nehemiah is not the most proud of his amazing construction project. Nehemiah is the most proud of the environment he created. Nehemiah created an environment where God was to be praised. You have influence over your personal, family/friendship, and work environments. How can you provide a better environment for God to be praised?
10. Pray.