



ACCEPT YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Nehemiah 3:1-32

- Today is *Life Group Connection* Sunday, where we encourage everyone to get involved in a small group so they can study God’s Word, grow spiritually, develop great friendships, learn from mature Christians, get involved in ministry in the Group and to the Community, and mentor newer Christians.
- *“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship . . . and to prayer. . . . They worshiped together at the Temple . . . met in homes . . . and shared their meals with great joy and generosity.”* (Acts 2:42, 46)
- **What steps do I need to take to get involved in a Life Group?**
- The Lord has great plans and purposes for His people that He begins to reveal to us and make happen when we are willing to put Him first in our lives.
- *“For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me. I will be found by you,’ says the Lord. ‘I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes.”* (Jeremiah 29:11-14)
- We begin to see God’s plans and purposes come to fruition in our lives when we get engaged in: 1) praying for direction (Nehemiah 1), 2) planning well, (Nehemiah 2:1-9), and 3) getting buy-in from others (Nehemiah 2:10-18).
- Nehemiah - *“I said to them, ‘You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!’ Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, ‘Yes, let’s rebuild the wall!’ So they began the good work.”* (Nehemiah 2:17-18)
- To continue to see God’s plans and purposes accomplished in our lives we have to be willing to “accept our assignment” - to get engaged in growing in the Lord and serving Him and others alongside of other God-followers (Nehemiah 3:1-32).
- **What are some principles that we can learn from Nehemiah 3 that help us know how to take some “steps to success” in our lives?**

We Learn From Nehemiah 3 About:

THE PRINCIPLE OF DEDICATION

- *“Then Eliashib the high priest and the other priests started to rebuild at the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set up its doors, building the wall as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and the Tower of Hananel.” (Nehemiah 3:1)*
- **We need to dedicate what we’re doing (our work) and we’re building (our family, our careers, etc) to the Lord - but first we need to dedicate our lives to the Lord.**
- *“Give (dedicate) your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.” (Romans 12:1)*
- **When people are sharing life together like people do in *Life Groups*, they are more apt to live lives dedicated to serving and honoring the Lord.**
- *“When Barnabas arrived and saw this evidence of God’s blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord.” (Acts 11:23)*
- **When we dedicate or rededicate our lives to the Lord, that’s when He can work in, for and through our lives in ways we’ve never experienced or envisioned.**

We Learn From Nehemiah 3 About:

THE PRINCIPLE OF PARTICIPATION

- *“People from the town of Jericho worked next to them, and beyond them was Zaccur son of Imri. The Fish Gate was built by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid the beams, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. Meremoth son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz repaired the next section of wall. Beside him were Meshullam son of Berekiah and grandson of Meshezabel, and then Zadok son of Baana.” (Nehemiah 3:2-4)*
- **The workers on the walls and the gates utilized their abilities for the glory of God and for the good of the people, like people do when they are serving in the Church or participating in a *Life Group*.**
- *“God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.” (Romans 12:6)*
- **The abilities we have are a strong indication of what God wants to do in our lives.**
- *“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” (1 Peter 4:10)*
- *“Next were the people from Tekoa, though their leaders refused to work with the construction supervisors.” (Nehemiah 3:5)*
- **There will be always three kinds of people - the “shirkers,” the “jerkers” and the “workers” - and God has called His people to be “workers.”**

We Learn From Nehemiah 3 About:

THE PRINCIPLE OF COOPERATION

- *“The Old City Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid the beams, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. Next to them were Melatiah from Gibeon, Jadon from Meroth, people from Gibeon, and people from Mizpah, the headquarters of the governor of the province west of the Euphrates River. Next was Uzziel son of Harhaiah, a goldsmith by trade, who also worked on the wall. Beyond him was Hananiah, a manufacturer of perfumes. They left*

out a section of Jerusalem as they built the Broad Wall. Rephaiah son of Hur, the leader of half the district of Jerusalem, was next to them on the wall.” (Nehemiah 3:6-9)

- **“Teamwork” is a necessity for living a strong life, because we accomplish so much more together than we do as individuals.**
- *“Two can accomplish more than twice as much as one, for the results can be much better. If one falls, the other pulls him up; but if a man falls when he’s alone, he’s in trouble.”* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)
- *“Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, thinking together is unity, and working together is success.”* - Rick Warren
- **The phrase “one another” is used 58 times in the New Testament, to remind us the Lord wants us to constantly be working together and ministering to one another.**
- **We show our love for other Christians by praying for them, encouraging them, defending them, serving alongside of them, and spending time with them.**
- *“God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for Him and how you have shown your love to Him by caring for other believers.”* (Hebrews 6:10)

We Learn From Nehemiah 3 About:

THE PRINCIPLE OF MOTIVATION

- *“Jedaiah son of Harumaph repaired the wall across from his own house, and next to him was Hattush son of Hashabneiah.”* (Nehemiah 3:10)
- *“Benjamin and Hasshub repaired the section across from their house, and Azariah son of Maaseiah and grandson of Ananiah repaired the section across from his house.”* (Nehemiah 3:23)
- **We are greatly motivated to get involved in ministries if we understand that doing so will help provide safety, encouragement and growth for our family members.**
- **Our family members benefit when we grow in our relationship with the Lord and teach them spiritual principles, when they can serve the Lord alongside us, and when they have other mature Christians in their lives they can look up to and learn from.**
- *“Priscilla and Aquila . . . took Apollo aside and explained the way of God even more accurately.”* (Acts 18:26)

We Learn From Nehemiah 3 About:

THE PRINCIPLE OF APPRECIATION

- **Many people in Nehemiah 3 are noted for their work and accomplishments, which reminds us that it is important to affirm and appreciate people in our lives.**
- *“Encourage one another and build one another up.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- **Successful people recognize and reward the attitudes and efforts of others.**
- **God also has a list of people whom He is going to recognize and reward.**
- The Lord - *“Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!”* (Matthew 25:21)
- *“Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.”* (1 Corinthians 15:58)

- **We all have different gifts that the Lord has given to us to utilize in His service.**
- *“Just as each of us has one body and many members, and these members do not have all the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We all have different gifts . . . use them!”* (Romans 12:4-8)
- **Nehemiah noted that there were different types of “workers on the wall - some who did “no work,” some who did “some work,” and some who did “lots of work.”**
- ***Which words in the above statement describe my involvement in God’s ministry?***
- *“Next to him was Baruch son of Zabbai, who zealously repaired an additional section from the angle to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.”* (Nehemiah 3:20)
- ***What is God leading me to do to help build a strong wall here at Celebration so that many people’s lives, circumstances and relationships are transformed?***

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- **Join in with a *Life Group* for growth, friendship and ministry purposes**
(www.celebrationchurch.org/lifegroups)
- **Develop a plan for helping and discipling some other Believers.**
- **Sign up to get involved on a Serve Team**