



HOUSE GROUPS

HOUSE Groups: Discussion Questions:

Nehemiah 5:1-19

(Key Verse)

Nehemiah 5:19 *Remember me, my God, for good, [according to] all that I have done for this people.*

(Nehemiah 5:1-5): **1** And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren. **2** For there were those who said, "We, our sons, and our daughters [are] many; therefore let us get grain, that we may eat and live." **3** There were also [some] who said, "We have mortgaged our lands and vineyards and houses, that we might buy grain because of the famine." **4** There were also those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax [on] our lands and vineyards. **5** "Yet now our flesh [is] as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children; and indeed we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and [some] of our daughters have been brought into slavery. [It is] not in our power [to redeem them], for other men have our lands and vineyards."

Question: If Satan cannot win the battle by attacking from the outside-in, he will try from the inside-out. What was the problem from within, and why was it wrong?

Question: How can greed lead a Christian to a place where they are no longer thinking about others, but only focused on making a profit?

Question: How does self-focus cause division in the Body of Christ, and hurt our brothers and sisters?

Question: What attitude are Christians to have with loaning money to each other? What did the Old Testament have to say regarding loaning money to brethren?

Read: Luke 6:34-35

Read: Exodus 22:25

Question: What does the Bible have to say regarding Christians paying what they owe, and why is it such a good example for Christians to pay their bills?

Read: Psalm 37:21

(Nehemiah 5:6-11): **6** And I became very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. **7** After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers, and said to them, "Each of you is exacting usury from his brother." So I called a great assembly against them. **8** And I said to them, "According to our ability we have redeemed our Jewish brethren who were sold to the nations. Now indeed, will you even sell your brethren? Or should they be sold to us?" Then they were silenced and found nothing [to say]. **9** Then I said, "What you are doing [is] not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies? **10** "I also, [with] my brethren and my servants, am lending them money and grain. Please, let us stop this usury! **11** "Restore now to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also a hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil, that you have charged them."

Question: What challenges are associated with speaking out against something taking place that is wrong?

Question: How does walking in the fear of the Lord assist us in our decision making, and in our business dealings?

Question: What can we do to guard ourselves against using people, and how can we practically make up for taking advantage of someone?

(Nehemiah 5:12-13): **12** So they said, "We will restore [it], and will require nothing from them; we will do as you say." Then I called the priests, and required an oath from them that they would do according to this promise. **13** Then I shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out each man from his house, and from his property, who does not perform this promise. Even thus may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD. Then the people did according to this promise.

Question: How does God's work of restoration in our lives work?

Question: How does fulfilling your promises bring praise to the Lord? How does fulfilling your promises cause others to praise the Lord?

(Nehemiah 5:14-19): **14** Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year until the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the governor's provisions. **15** But the former governors who [were] before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants bore rule

over the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of God. **16** Indeed, I also continued the work on this wall, and we did not buy any land. All my servants [were] gathered there for the work. **17** And at my table [were] one hundred and fifty Jews and rulers, besides those who came to us from the nations around us. **18** Now [that] which was prepared daily [was] one ox [and] six choice sheep. Also fowl were prepared for me, and once every ten days an abundance of all kinds of wine. Yet in spite of this I did not demand the governor's provisions, because the bondage was heavy on this people. **19** Remember me, my God, for good, [according to] all that I have done for this people.

Question: How did Nehemiah seek to reestablish servant leadership as he governed, and why is that type of leadership so impactful?

Question: Why is it considered a good thing when you do something for someone else, and how is that pleasing to God?

Question: What are some practical examples of how we can better display *servant leadership* at home, at work, and in general?