

#17 "Stretching the Comfort Zone"

Ready, Pray....Action!

A Study of the book of Nehemiah – Study Notes

Eastside Christian Fellowship: Dec. 30, 2007

What is something you did that was really out of your comfort zone? What was the result?

As a Home Group give a brief overview of what has happened so far in the book of Nehemiah. Have different people recall parts of the story.

Describe the spiritual journey the people of Jerusalem have been on. What is the spiritual health of the people at the end of chapter 10? What had they committed themselves to?

The following questions are based on Nehemiah 11:1-12:26

- ? It was now time to re-populate the city of Jerusalem. How did they do this? 11:1-3
- ? What did the leaders do? (11:1)
- ? What challenges did they face with re-populating the city? (Consider the history & condition of the city)
- ? What attitude toward the city and their purpose would the people have to have in order to make this kind of move without grumbling and complaining?
- ? Do you think it was out of any of their comfort zones?
- ? Are you free enough to make a major change in where you live if God should call you to do so? What would be holding you back?
- ? When you chose where to live, what were the driving factors behind the decision?
- ? Was there any thought given to how God would use you in that particular neighborhood, city or area? Do you feel like you have a Godly purpose for living where you're currently living?
- ? What difference in the kingdom of God would be made if every Christian lived out the purpose for God in their neighborhoods?
- ? What are some practical and non-invasive ways to make an impact for the Lord in your particular neighborhood, apt. building etc.
- ? Skim through the Nehemiah text and list all the different responsibilities/jobs.
- ? As you skim through the names in the genealogies, are there any familiar names that strike you as interesting that they are even mentioned?
- ? What do you notice about diversity with the people and responsibilities in the text?

The responsibilities listed in these verses can be broken down into 3 categories:

- a. Leadership roles powered by leadership talents & gifts
 - b. Administrative roles powered by administrative talents & gifts
 - c. Servant roles powered by talents & gifts of service.
- ? Which of the above categories do you tend to strongest in? In what ways are you using those gifts and talents for the Lord both in and out of the church body?

Read I Corinthians 12:12-27

- ? What does Paul say about the diversity in the body of Christ?
- ? What does 12:12 say about each individual in the body of Christ?
- ? What does this text say about the importance of those who are weaker or those who are struggling?
- ? **Sum up this entire passage in one sentence.**