

Small Group Study Guide

“Disabling Dynamics”

Nehemiah 5:1-19

Pastor Mark Kilcup

Relate

Take turns in your group discussing a situation where you have work to do that was hindered by an injury or disability. This could be a past or current experience.

Review

Read Nehemiah 5:1-19 together.

Talk through the dynamics for the rebuilders of earning a living, caring for their own possessions, paying burdensome taxes, and trying to rebuild the wall.

Discuss Nehemiah’s contribution to the disabling dynamics. Then discuss what his motivations were for correcting the indebtedness.

How does the fear of God factor into the picture?

How does the issue of indebtedness between brothers and sisters affect relationships? How do we see this in the church body today?

In verses 14-19, what do we learn about Nehemiah’s attitude, heart, and leadership?

Dig

Consider Leviticus 25 and Eph. 4:3, 25-32. How should “brothers” (and sisters) be treated?

Read Philippians 2:1-11, then discuss the following questions:

1. How does Christ’s example compare to Nehemiah? How should we live in light of this?
2. What is of greatest importance in the life of a believer? How do we do this?
3. What should characterize the relationship between believers? How do we do this?

Live

Personal evaluation: How have I contributed to “disabling dynamics.”

Pray and seek the Lord if there is anyone that you need to pursue reconciliation. Take first steps this week. Maybe people in your group can offer accountability.

Prepare your heart for communion before the service on Sunday.