



Sunday September 03, 2017
On Assignment
(Lessons from Nehemiah)

God has assignments for each of us.

Some may be short term assignments. Others may be life-assignments, things you give a major part of your life to pursue and fulfill here on earth.

What goes into pursuing God-given assignments?

Brief overview of the book of Nehemiah

Nehemiah was a cup-bearer, a high ranking official in the court of the Persian King Artaxerxes I at the capital city of Susa. Susa was about 150 miles east of the Tigris River, now in modern Iran. About 445 B.C. Nehemiah came to Jerusalem, as the governor of the province of Judah, to rebuild the city walls.

The book describes two assignments that Nehemiah pursues. One was a short one, the rebuilding of the city walls. This was completed in 52 days. The other was a longer life-assignment: The reforming and reviving of God's people spiritually, in their relationship to God and obedience to His Word.

We will draw some lessons today from Nehemiah on the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

#1, A stirring within.

Nehemiah 1:1-2:10

Unusual favor. Open doors. Divine provision.

When you have these four fall in line (stirring within, unusual favor, open doors, divine provision) this is a very good confirmation that God is moving you into something.

#2, Incubation time.

Nehemiah 2:11-15

Nehemiah recognized that the stirring within was something God had put into his heart (2:12).

Survey. Take stock of what needs to be done. Plan.

#3, Share the vision.

Nehemiah 2:16-20

Often a God-given vision is bigger than the individual.

Some may mock at the vision and think it is impossible.

All eyes must be on the Lord (2:18,20).



#4, Enlist participation.

Nehemiah 3:1-32

People from all vocations, both men and women participated in the work.
Some however did not participate (3:5).

#5, Defend against external threats.

Nehemiah 4:1-23

Just because you have an God-given assignment does not mean things will be smooth and easy. Challenges should not deter you from pursuing your assignment.
Work as a team.
Watch out for one another.

#6, Resolve internal conflicts.

Nehemiah 5:1-13

Hold leaders and those in authority to higher standards.
Don't hesitate to ask for more (sacrifice, excellence, standards of conduct, etc.) from those in leadership positions.

#7, Maintain personal standards and testimony.

Nehemiah 5:14-19

Your credibility is important.
Trust is earned.

#8, Stand firm against personal attacks.

Nehemiah 6:1-14

#9, Appoint right people into leadership.

Nehemiah 7:1-3

Hand over the work and move on when your time is up.
Establish continuity. Keep the well-being of the people in mind.

Nehemiah recognizes his next assignment

Nehemiah 7:5

This again comes as something God puts into his heart.
Nehemiah focuses on the spiritual reformation and revival of the people of God, which is recorded for us in chapters 7-13. We will not cover these in detail.





LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE



On Assignment (Lessons from Nehemiah on the rebuilding of the city wall)

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Nehemiah chapters 1 & 2*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group study.

(A) Below are the 9 highlights observed in the rebuilding of the city wall, under Nehemiah's leadership. Which two of these 'stand out' most to you today as very significant, and why?

- #1, A stirring within (Nehemiah 1:1-2:10)*
- #2, Incubation time (Nehemiah 2:11-15)*
- #3, Share the vision (Nehemiah 2:16-20)*
- #4, Enlist participation (Nehemiah 3:1-32)*
- #5, Defend against external threats (Nehemiah 4:1-23)*
- #6, Resolve internal conflicts (Nehemiah 5:1-13)*
- #7, Maintain personal standards and testimony (Nehemiah 5:14-19)*
- #8, Stand firm against personal attacks (Nehemiah 6:1-14).*



#9, Appoint right people into leadership (Nehemiah 7:1-3)

(B) It is interesting that Nehemiah points out what "God put into my heart" in 2:12, and again in 7:5. Have you experienced such things that came into your heart, stirred you and stayed in you until you acted on them? Take turns to share your experience and lessons learned.

(C), Discuss the importance of the alignment of these 4 indicators, as evidence of God's guidance: stirring within, unusual favor, open doors, divine provision. Take turns to share your experience of similar divine guidance through alignment of these 4 indicators, in your life?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learning today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Within the group, feel free to share areas of emotional healing that may be needed. (Keep all matters confidential). Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and close by thanking God together.