

SERMON SERIES COMPANION STUDIES
FOR SMALL GROUPS



LET'S REBUILD!

A SERIES FROM THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

REBUILDING LIFE, CHURCH, AND COMMUNITY

STUDY 3

Doing Kingdom Work Together

SERMON TEXT: NEHEMIAH 3:1-32
COMPANION STUDY TEXT: ROMANS 12:3-13

Getting Started

If you haven't done so already, share this PDF, or the link to this study, with other members of your group.

After greeting one another, take a minute or two of silence together and offer an opening prayer. If you don't all know one another already, invite each group member to share their name.

Opening Question

What is one of the best gifts you have ever received for a birthday or special occasion? Share a little about the person or people who gave you the gift and about how it made you feel to receive it.

Purpose of This Week's Study

To consider and put to practical kingdom use the gifts and resources God has given to each of us.

INTRODUCTION TO THIS WEEK'S STUDY

If you've ever seen a building being constructed, you know that it takes many different skills and trades to build something successfully. Nehemiah 3 is a window into the diverse workforce it took to rebuild the walls and gates of Jerusalem after they had been destroyed. It took many different teams and people of many different gifts and talents, some of whom who were professionals, and most of whom who were not, to rebuild the city gates and walls.

In the same way, in the body of Christ, it takes every member, using their gifts and resources to build the kingdom of God. In our study this week, we will look at some of the spiritual gifts and consider how we can start to use our gifts and our resources in practical ways to show love to one another and to the world.

Scripture Reading

Invite two or three people from your group to take turns reading the following passage from Romans 12 aloud:

ROMANS 12:3-13 (NIV)

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

For Reflection & Discussion

Note: Feel free to use some or all of the questions below, depending on how much time you have, and on how much people share. There is no need to use all the questions if you sense God moving you and your group to focus more deeply on a smaller number of them.

1. What are some common ways we tend to think too highly of ourselves in our relationship to God? What are some of the negative impacts of doing this this, both on ourselves and on others?
2. Sometimes, underestimating or undervaluing our own gifts, or being frozen by fear or perfectionism in employing them, can also be a way of thinking too highly of ourselves, for when we do this, we allow our own opinion of ourselves to take precedence over God's opinion of us. Consider your own life and share with your group if you notice anything like this in yourself, and about how it impacts your ability to serve and love others with the gifts God has given you.
3. Share some experiences from your own life of the body of Christ working together in unity. What are some ways you've seen Christians with different gifts working together for the kingdom?
4. Have you ever learned about your own spiritual gifts? What did you discover about them? Based on verses 6-8, which of the gifts listed in this passage do you think you might have (there may be more than one)? How did you come to this conclusion? What about other members of the group? What gifts do you see in one another? Take a few minutes to speak out and affirm those gifts in one another.

5. Why do you think it's significant that Paul discusses love and honor right after talking about spiritual gifts? What are some of the practical ways we can start right now to use our gifts to show love and honor to others and to partner with God to build his kingdom? Are there things you're already doing to use your gifts for the kingdom?
6. What is one way you sense God inviting you to stir up the zeal and spiritual fervor in yourself that Paul mentions in verse 11?

For Prayer Ministry

Take some time to reflect silently on the spiritual gifts and ask God to show you which gifts he wants to give or develop in you or others in the group. After waiting on the Lord, share any words, impressions, scriptures, or images he is showing you.

Spend time praying over one another that God would impart gifts and bless the spiritual gifts that each person has already been given. This can be done in small breakout groups or as a whole group. If there is a specific prayer request, be sure to pray and minister to those needs as well.

For Further Reflection & Action Outside of Group

Learn more about spiritual gifts by reading 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 this week.

Take a quiz to find out what your spiritual gifts are: [Definition of Spiritual Gifts | Gifts Test](#).

Get involved in serving at the church if you aren't already by signing up on the website: [First Serve | Join A Team – Vineyard Columbus](#).