

Weekly Cell Guide

Member's Copy

Series - Nehemiah 5
Topic - Awakened in Troubled Times

Date - 07 June 2020
Speaker - Pastor Joachim

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Spirit Touch Your Church
 2. One Voice
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WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Awaken our ears to the cries around us, awaken our hearts towards the fear of God, and awaken our lives to a lifestyle of good deeds.
2. Commit to invest and participate in #RiverLifeCares initiatives when it is launched in July

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. After dealing with external threats (in chapter 4), Nehemiah faced internal challenges from his own people.
2. Chapter 5 reveals how Nehemiah responded to the despair and difficulties around him.
3. As a church, we can respond in the same way Nehemiah did in our current situation.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Loud outcries as a result of extreme poverty, destitution and helplessness caused by a famine came to Nehemiah. Also, the wealthy exploited the situation and forced the poor into slavery. Just as how Nehemiah was awakened to the desperate cries of the people, may we also be awakened to the crisis and the challenges around us during this Covid-19 situation. Nehemiah showed us three ways we can respond in light of these troubled times:

1. Awaken our ears to the cries (v 6)

Even though Nehemiah had many other issues on his plate, he still had compassion for his people. Likewise, while we may have our own challenges to deal with, we must not forget the cries of suffering around us, because "God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish" (Psalm 9:18). To promote the welfare of the poor

is to promote the cause of God.

2. Awaken our hearts towards the fear of God (v 9a)

While we enjoy the love and presence of God, we must not overlook the weight, the value and the benefit of carrying the fear of God in our hearts, as “He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure” (Isaiah 33:6). Godly fear awakens us to the righteousness and justice of God and arouses us to the poor and needy around us, “for the LORD is righteous, He loves justice; the upright will see His face” (Psalm 11:7). When we help the poor and the less fortunate, we revere God, and “whoever mistreats the poor insults their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God” (Proverbs 14:31).

3. Awaken our lives to a lifestyle of good deeds (v9b)

Let us aspire to a legacy and heritage of good works, and “let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). What do our neighbours, colleagues, friends and family members say about Christians during and after this pandemic? Is Christ revealed through our word and action? Have we lived simply so that others might simply live?

There are three tangible ways we can apply the above principles that Nehemiah laid out:

- a. Be involved in looking out for needs in our neighbourhood, our workplaces, and our cell groups
- b. Be involved in giving to missions
- c. Be involved in #RiverLifeCares initiatives

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Nehemiah 5:1-19. What character qualities can we see in Nehemiah that are different from the governors before him?** [15 min]

2. **Ps Joachim quoted a line from Timothy Keller’s book *Center Church*: “The righteous will disadvantage themselves to advantage the community.” Do you agree with this statement? Do you consider yourself “righteous” and if so, what does “disadvantage yourself to advantage others” mean to you?** [15 min]

3. **Ps Joachim asked every RiverLifer two important questions: (i) If I have the fear of the Lord in me, what will I do for the poor in times of famine and crisis? (ii) If the fear of the Lord is in me, how will the cries of the broken and the poor affect me today?** [15 min]

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray for the following pointers:

1. Thank God for the end to the Circuit Breaker this week and pray for situations to improve for those still in hospital and those in financial difficulties.
 2. Pray for a smooth transition for schools, businesses and churches during this time.
 3. Pray for the foreign workers who are still quarantined in dormitories.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp.
2. **RiverLife Weekly | Issue 8 – Under Control.** Read the full note at rlc.sg/wkly
3. **Pastoral Address (3 Jun)** Read the full address here: rlc.sg/3jun-sp-address



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.
Scan this QR code on the right.

SCAN ME



2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account:
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0
Bank Code: 7171
Branch Code: 029



Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.

