

Improving Your Organizing

Improving Our Influence, part 5
Pastor Dave Nichols, February 10, 2019

How to improve your organizing?

1. **Keep it** _____
(Nehemiah 3:1-12, 4:13)

2. **Move with the** _____
(Nehemiah 3:5)

3. _____ **specific assignments.**
(Nehemiah 3:8-11)

4. **Give** _____
(Nehemiah 3:10,23,28-30)

5. **Foster** _____
(Nehemiah 3:1-18, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

6. **Don't shy away from** _____
(Nehemiah 3:17-18)

7. **Give away** _____
(Nehemiah 3:20, Romans 4:12, 1 Corinthians 15:58)

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to “Week 5” of our small group session!

We are glad that you have taken this journey with us digging into God's Word with others. We pray this is a time of growth, encouragement, and fun as you deepen friendships and make new friends along the way! This session of small groups will wrap up the week of March 24th.

Getting Started:

We looked at Nehemiah 3:1-18 this past Sunday. Nehemiah showed us how to improve our organizing with some practical steps he modeled for us. When was there a time when you part of a project that was not organized well and what points from Sunday's message were missed that would have helped in the organization?

I. Keep it Simple:

Nehemiah used a simple plan to accomplish an enormous project. The groups of people repairing specific sections of the wall were formed from natural associations.

Read Nehemiah 3:1-5

- What natural associations are seen in the groups of people that are working together?
- When have you been involved in an organizational structure that seemed overly complex?

Sometimes people make Christianity overly complicated.

- When have you seen this happen?
 - Is there anything else someone needs to know to become a Christian other than what is listed in **Romans 10:9-10**?

II. Move with the Movers:

Potential influencers can spend a lot of time trying to convince the negative, lazy, and apathetic to get involved rather than moving forward with those who are excited about being on board. Nehemiah experienced this with the nobles of Tekoa (Nehemiah 3:5).

- How do you know when you have taken enough time to try to “bring someone on board” and need to move on without them?

Read: Mark 10:17-23

- How does Jesus deal with the rich young man’s response to his invitation?

III. Delegate specific assignments:

In Nehemiah 3 the word “section” is used 13 times. Nehemiah obviously walked along the wall and divided the project into smaller tasks that individuals, small groups of people, and families could accomplish. (Nehemiah 3:8-11)

- What is an example of a large project that you were involved in or you can think of that was broken into smaller pieces?

Confusion, chaos, and congestion would have occurred if Nehemiah had let people build however and wherever they thought best.

- Have you ever been part of a project that had little leadership and those involved were asked to “go make it happen” however they thought best?
- What is the balance between leadership, delegation, and allowing people to demonstrate their creativity?

IV. Give Motivation:

An influencer organizes a project so that those involved can work in areas where they have an interest and receive a personal benefit.

- How did Nehemiah use this influence insight to increase people’s participation and ownership for rebuilding the wall?
 - Nehemiah 3:1 (The sheep gate is the gate closest to the temple.)
 - Nehemiah 3:10, 23, 28
- When have you chosen to be involved in a project or ministry because of your personal interest or benefit?

Serving in a ministry that uses your spiritual gifts will increase your motivation and ownership. Read Romans 12:4-8

- When have you experienced this in your involvement in ministry?

V. Foster Cooperation:

It is easy for those working on a project to lose sight of the big picture. Nehemiah needed to make sure that each piece of the wall fit together. In Nehemiah 3, “next to him/them” is used 20 times in the description of those rebuilding the wall.

- What would the consequences be for the city of Jerusalem if certain portions of the wall were weaker than others?

Read: Romans 15:1-6

- When working as a team, how do you find the balance between trusting others to do their part of the job with excellence and sharing a concern about the job being done well? Why is unity a non-negotiable in God’s economy?

VI. Administration:

Read: Hebrews 13:17 and Ephesians 6:5-9

- What should our attitude be toward those who supervise us both in the workplace and in the church?
- What if our supervisors do their job poorly?

VII. Give away the Credit:

Nehemiah was a master at giving the credit away. He recognized 38 workers by name for their efforts. Nehemiah 3:20 gives Baruch an honorable mention for working zealously.

- What does this tell us about how our attitude affects our influence?

Read: Matthew 16:27 and Romans 14:11-12

- How does knowing that Christ will recognize your service here on earth affect your daily life?

Spend some time praying for one another.