

Improving Our Resolving

Improving Our Influence, part 7
Pastor Dave Nichols, February 24, 2019

The Cause of the Conflict:

(Nehemiah 5:2-5)

1. F
2. I
3. R
4. E

The Cure for Conflict:

1. **Release** _____

(Nehemiah 5:6, Ephesians 4:26)

2. **Reflect** _____

(Nehemiah 5:7a)

3. **Rebuke** _____

(Nehemiah 5:7b)

4. **Resolve** _____

(Nehemiah 5:7c-11)

5. **Reinforce** _____

(Nehemiah 5:14-16)

Maintaining Influence for God:

(Nehemiah 5:15-19)

Deepen your...

Develop your...

Discipline yourself...

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to “Week 7” 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 5:1-19 this past Sunday. In this passage we see Nehemiah having to deal with an internal issue among the Jewish people. These issues are sometimes the hardest issues to deal with because you are connected closely with those involved. When was there a time when you have had to deal with a difficult issue with people close with you? What did you do and how did it go?

I. The Cause of the Conflict:

If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.
(Mark 3:25)

Read Nehemiah 5:1-5

1. Food shortage- famine
2. Interest Rates- on loans from Jewish brothers
3. Rising Taxes- charged by the King of Persia
4. Enslaving Families- children sold as payment for debts.

- What motivated the nobles and officials to treat their Jewish brothers in this way?

Read: James 4:1-3.

- How do you react when people within an organization fail to live out the character of your group’s shared vision —when they start to use the group for personal reasons and not for the shared vision? When and why has this happened to you?

II. The Cure for Conflict:

Read: Nehemiah 5:6-13

1. Release Emotionally:

- How did Nehemiah respond internally to the complaints presented to him in Nehemiah 5:6?
- When was the last time you responded emotionally to a situation?

2. Reflect Mentally:

Read Nehemiah 5:7 and James 1:19-20

- When have you reflected on something before you reacted and saved yourself from a lot of trouble?

Read Galatians 5:16-18

- How do we practically live by the Spirit and therefore keep from reacting in anger? Do you have an example of when you have lived this out?

3. Rebuke Privately:

Read Matthew 18:15

- When have you seen this principle for dealing with conflict succeed?
- When have you seen action to correct a bad situation delayed and the situation become more difficult to resolve?

4. Resolve Publicly:

Since the nobles and officials didn't respond to a private conversation; and because everyone knew what was going on, Nehemiah needed to deal with these issues publicly.

Read Matthew 18:16-17

- Why do you think the nobles and officials were so willing to make things right following their public exposure?
- Based on 1 Corinthians 5:1-3 what is your responsibility in dealing with Christian brothers and sisters who are willfully living a life that is contrary to the teachings in the Bible? the teachings in the Bible?

5. Reinforce personally:

Read: Nehemiah 5:14-18

- What is the contrast between the attitude and actions of the nobles and officials (Neh. 5:7-12), and Nehemiah and his workers (Neh. 5:14-18)?
- How do you think Nehemiah's example influenced the nobles and officials willingness to make things right with those they had taken advantage of?

III. Maintaining Influence for God:

1. Deepen Your Reverence for God:

- Read Neh. 5:15. How does your reverence for God affect your behavior toward others?
- Read Ephesians 2:8-10. How do these truths about being a Christian increase your reverence for God?

2. Develop Your Love for People:

- Read Romans 5:8 and 1 John 5:11-13. How can these Biblical truths increase your love for others?

3. Discipline Yourself for Eternal Rewards:

Read: Nehemiah 5:19

- Why do you think Nehemiah prayed this prayer?
- How will having this perspective affect your daily life?

Read: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

- How can you be sure that what you are building through your life will be rewarded?

Spend some time praying for one another.