

# Improving Our Accounting

Improving Our Influence, part 10  
Pastor Bob Johnson, March 17th, 2019

**In Neh. 7, we see 3 tasks of Phase 2 Leadership:**

1. **R** \_\_\_\_\_ & **R** \_\_\_\_\_

## Leadership

(Nehemiah 7:1-3)

2. **R** \_\_\_\_\_ **Your Progress**

(Nehemiah 7:4-5)

Neh. 7:6-69 - the accounting of the people

What's the point?

God **R** \_\_\_\_\_ & **R** \_\_\_\_\_

every step of faith we take!

(Proverbs 27:23, Luke 15:1-4, 2 Samuel 24:2-10)

3. **R** \_\_\_\_\_ **Financial Support**

(Nehemiah 7:70-72, 2 Samuel 24:24, 2 Cor. 8:1-7)

## This Week's Discussion Guide:

**Welcome to week 10 of our 11 week small group session!**

After this week, we only have one week left. For the three weeks before Easter, there will be some all church opportunities to pray and attend some new studies on Wednesday night and Sunday nights. After Easter, all of our small groups will be starting back up again for our Spring series. Stay tuned for more info :)

### Getting Started:

How are you? Let's take a minute and catch up with one another? Anything encouraging or not so encouraging happen recently? In Nehemiah 7:1-2, Nehemiah chose some leaders who were known to be faithful and "God-fearing" which means that they revered God more than anyone else and were known to put God first in their lives.

How have you been blessed by someone in your life who has demonstrated faithfulness and spiritual maturity?

Nehemiah chose people who were faithful in past experiences that helped them be prepared for their new opportunities to serve. How have your past experiences helped to prepare you for your current responsibilities in ministry or in other areas where you are in a position of responsibility?

Along with recruiting and releasing new leaders, Nehemiah recorded the progress and the people who were involved with the building project.

Read Nehemiah 7:4-5

God inspired Nehemiah to take a census to find out who of those that had returned from Persia were currently living in or around Jerusalem. If you could track down someone from your past and find out how they were doing, who would it be?

When have you been part of group and felt like you "slipped through the cracks"? How did it feel?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11

What responsibility does a group (like our church at GPC) have for helping to keep people connected?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25

What responsibility does the individual have for staying connected?

Nehemiah's story is one of following God's prompting, even when he didn't feel adequate for what he was asked to do. When have you felt God prompting you to do something that you were not planning to do?

How did you know it was a prompting from God and not from your own thoughts or someone else?

God put the people who moved from Persia to Israel and who eventually rebuilt the wall in the pages of the Bible. Throughout Scripture, it is clear that God remembers and recognizes every step of faith and service we take.

What steps of faith and/or service have you taken in your life that point to a growing commitment and dependence on God?

Read Luke 15:1-24

In each of these stories, what is the response to finding what is lost?

God chose to put these three stories with the same message back to back to back. Why three stories and what are some insights God wants us to reflect on and apply to our lives?

Read Galatians 6:1-2 and Hebrews 3:12-13

How can our church family do a better job at reaching out to those that have wandered away from God?

What plans are you pretty sure will not work with those friends who are far from God?

Read 2 Samuel 24:2-4, 8-10

David took a census similar to the one taken by Nehemiah. Why was one helpful and one sinful? How can we assess the motives behind our actions so that we can be more aware of why we do what we do?

What did David do as soon as he became aware of his sin?

What is the affect of not confessing our sin when we become aware of it?

Along with recruiting and releasing new leaders and recording the progress which includes recognizing those who were involved, Nehemiah chooses to raise some financial support.

Read Nehemiah 7:70-72 What criticisms do you think were made of Nehemiah's leadership when those living in and around Jerusalem began making sacrificial financial gifts to help rebuild the city and the temple?

In your opinion, when has a leader gone "too far" in their efforts to raise financial support for a specific cause?

What is the balance between a leader encouraging sacrificial giving and trusting the Lord to speak to people's hearts?

Read 2 Samuel 24:18-25 David insisted on paying for the land, animals and materials needed for the sacrifice. He did not believe that the sacrifice would be as meaningful unless it cost him something personally. How is a sacrificial offering more of a reflection of a heart of gratitude and commitment than an offering that is less of a sacrifice?

Read Luke 21:1-4 How does this example speak to the statement, "Not equal amounts but equal sacrifice" ?

How are you challenged personally when you consider the widow's example?

As we wrap up with some prayer time, let's each share something our group can pray about.