

Improving Our Influence Wrap Up

Improving Our Influence, part 11
Pastor Dave Nichols, March 24, 2019

- **The foundation of prevailing influence is not**
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Eight Keys to Having Influence:

1. We have _____

(Nehemiah 1:4, 5:6, 5:17-18)

2. We are _____

(Nehemiah 1:4-11, 2:11-12, 5:7)

3. We have _____

(Nehemiah 2:1, 8:10)

4. We maintain _____

(Nehemiah 2:7-8, 6:2-4)

5. We practice _____

(Nehemiah 4:13-18)

6. We take _____

(Nehemiah 2:2-3, 4:14, 5:9-11)

7. We keep _____

(Nehemiah 5:14-19)

8. We work _____

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to the final week of our small group session!

Starting next Sunday, March 31st, we will launch a 3 week focus on prayer leading up to our Easter celebration. As our groups will be taking a few weeks off until we launch a new series after Easter, everyone is invited to some evenings of prayer (6-7:15pm) on Wednesday April 3rd and 10th. Finally, on Palm Sunday, April 14th, we are planning a special Sunday evening of prayer focusing in on spiritual warfare as we pray for our surrounding communities leading up to Easter.

1. Compassion

Nehemiah shows compassion for others in need by working to rebuild the wall (1:4), exhorting his Jewish brothers for taking advantage of others by exacting usury (5:2-6), and by daily feeding those working on the wall (5:17-18).

Read Matthew 25:31-46

God clearly wants us to care for those in need. Doing so will open doors for ongoing influence in their lives.

- How does Nehemiah's example of caring for others and Christ's teaching on caring for others challenge you in your daily living?

2. Contemplation

Read Mark 1:29-39

Jesus was working long, hard hours meeting the needs of others. He made time alone with our Heavenly Father a priority.

- How does taking time alone with God for thought and prayer make you more effective in influencing others in your life? How does it affect your attitude when you face challenges?

3. Good Attitudes

Read Psalm 28:1-7 and Galatians 5:22-23

In the midst of the good and bad of daily life, we can experience the joy of the Lord just like David did.

- If we believe that having a good attitude is a decision of the will, how do we make that real in our lives?

4. Focus

Read Colossians 3:1-2

Nehemiah sets the example of a man whose heart is focused on the things of God and not on the concerns of this world.

- As you consider being a person of influence, how is God asking you to change or refocus your priorities and commitments?
- What challenges to your priorities must you anticipate if you are going to stay focused on activities and relationships that matter to God?

5. Creativity

When you picture those working on the wall with building materials in one hand and a weapon in the other, you realize Nehemiah was willing to “look outside the box.”

- As you seek to live a godly life and clearly represent Christ to others in a world that keeps moving away from godliness, what creative ideas can you think of to protect yourself from ungodly influences and still show others the love of Christ?

6. Courage

Read 2 Timothy 1:7

Nehemiah must have faced his own fears when he initially asked the king to assist him in rebuilding the wall and when the rumors suggested those opposed to the wall would bring harm to him and the workers.

- When and how do you deal with the fears that come when you are faced with taking a stand that will be unpopular with your peers or take the opportunity to talk with others about your faith in Christ?

7. Integrity

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16

No matter what criticisms were made of Nehemiah, they could not be founded in reality. He put the needs of others before himself and did not seek personal gain.

- What proactive steps have you taken to maintain your integrity in a world filled with material, sexual, and spiritual temptation?

8. Conviction

Read 1 Peter 4:12-16

Nehemiah was willing to die fulfilling God’s call on his life. Peter challenges us to praise God when we are given the opportunity to suffer as Christ suffered.

- How are our lives different when we are willing to die for our convictions?

Wrap Up:

We have just finished studying the book of Nehemiah for 11 weeks. As you reflect back over this book, what is one thing you want to apply to your life as a result of reading the book of Nehemiah?

Spend some time praying for one another.