

Catalyst Home Group

Discussion Questions :: 03/21-3/25, 2010
Nehemiah 11:1-12:26

Staying & Going

The wall has been rebuilt, the community has been established, the Word of God is once again the foundation for the people of God, and order is being restored. Nehemiah's vision of the city on a hill (the church) that lives as an example to the world is almost complete. However, one last obstacle must be overcome: repopulating the city so it can function as God intended.

See, the exiles who returned to Jerusalem were few in number compared to the days of the kings. The city is now sparsely populated. Nehemiah asks some to move into the city to help build communities and protect the city of God. This was no easy task as only a few people volunteered to uproot from their homes to reside in the city walls. So Nehemiah casted lots (leaving it up to God) to see who would stay and build the church and who would leave and live missionally in the surrounding communities. Some stayed and some went. Some were called to the city and others were called to their towns.

This is a reality the church must live in as well. As Catalyst looks to multiply into other campuses and cities, some will leave and some will go. Some will be called to Ventura and others will be called to Santa Paula.

This week's sermon and study asks us the difficult questions: Why do you believe God has you where you are? How do you live missionally in your city? How do you live as an ambassador for Christ in your context?

Discussion Questions:

[1] To begin...make a list of the people each of you is going to invite to Easter at Promenade Park on April 4th? How are you going to invite them?

[2] Has there been a time in your life when you knew God called you to move? What happened?

[3] **Read Nehemiah 11:1-12:26** (have fun with the names) Why do you think the people were so reluctant to stay in Jerusalem?

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Discussion Questions Continued...

[4] How did Nehemiah select who stayed and who left? What would that look like today?

[5] Do you think you would be willing to relocate, maybe forsaking your chosen field or ancestral home to be of greater use to God and His kingdom?

[6] Why was it important to have some stay (build the church in Ventura) and some to go (missionaries to surrounding villages)?

[7] Which do you believe you are called to and why?

[8] Why do you think so many view sending people out as a negative thing for the church? Why is sending such an important aspect of ministry?

Read Romans 10:14-15.

[9] On Sunday, Pastor Chris identified 3 opposing views of the church (and Christians).

Fortress Churches vs. Missional Churches
Hoarding Churches vs. Generous Churches
Mirror Churches vs. Window Churches.

What do these mean for us as a church?
What kind of church do we want Catalyst to be?
What do they mean for you personally?