

Catalyst Home Group

Discussion Questions :: 03/07-03/11, 2010
Nehemiah 8

Creating Culture & Commitment

Last week we read that the wall was rebuilt in only 52 days. The next challenge for Nehemiah is to rebuild the community of God. Now that the city is fortified, the gates are protected and manned, and the leaders are appointed, the real work of building a community begins. In chapter 8, the prophet Ezra comes into the story. As we read in the book of Ezra (7:6-10), the prophet led the second wave of exiles into the city to bring the Word of God and proper worship back to the people. But now the time has come to bring the truth of the Word to create a culture of reverence for God and a people committed to living for Him.

As you read chapter 8, pay close attention to the immediate culture that is developed. Pay attention to the response of the people as the Scriptures are read and taught. Do you respond in a similar way to the preaching and teaching of God's Word? Does Catalyst even come close to this type of culture?

Discussion Questions:

[1] What questions do you have from Sunday's sermon? What stood out to you? What confused you?

[2] What have been some of the significant events/things that have shaped our American culture?

[3] What shapes church culture today? What should shape our church culture?

[4] **Read Nehemiah chapter 8 & Leviticus 23:24, Numbers 29:1-6.** What was significant about the timing of this assembly? Why did they assemble in the public square and not the temple?

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Discussion Questions Continued...

[5] Look through the chapter and List the ways the people responded to the preaching and teaching of God's Word. Why do you think they responded this way?

[6] When was the last time God's word moved you in a similar way? If never, why not?

[7] When they broke up into groups to learn more about the Scriptures, what was the outcome?

[8] It's been said, "the goal of preaching is not information transfer, it's life transformation." Discuss the implications of that approach. Do you see Sunday's sermons and Home Groups as information transfer or a place to find life transformation?

[9] **Read James 1:22-25 & 2:14-26.** What would your life look like if you actually put into practice all that God commands? Is that even possible?

[10] What would Catalyst look like if it were full of people of action? What would our city look like if the Christian community were full of doers and not just hearers?