

GODLY LEADERSHIP NEHEMIAH

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

**Questions are based on New International Version (NIV)*

Lesson 21 • Nehemiah 5 • March 16, 2011

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Nehemiah 3 & 4** has helped you?

SECTION I: READ NEHEMIAH 5:1-6

2. What did “the men and their wives” do in **V1**?
3. Try to summarize in your own words their complaints against their Jewish brothers.
4. a) What was Nehemiah’s first reaction? (**V6**)

b) Comment on Nehemiah’s reaction in light of Ephesians 4:26 and James 1:19.
5. Nehemiah heard their outcry. What outcry does God want you to really hear?
6. a) In situations where you feel “powerless,” to whom do you cry out?

b) What comfort does 1 John 5:14-15 give you?

SECTION II: READ NEHEMIAH 5:7-13

7. a) According to **V7a**, how does Nehemiah deal with his angry feelings?
- b) What benefits do you see in responding like Nehemiah in **V7a**?
8. a) In your own words, write Nehemiah's summation of the problem in **V8-9** and root cause.
- b) What are the positive ripple effects of a right fear of God implied in **V9**?
9. Write Nehemiah's proposal in **V10-13**.
10. a) Jot down the steps of Nehemiah's actions and reactions to this conflict in **V6-13**.
- b) Recall ways you've handled conflict in the past. What are ways you could respond to conflict differently after learning from Nehemiah's Godly example?
11. Write a truth you've learned about handling conflict, especially among believers.

SECTION III: READ NEHEMIAH 5:14-19

12. a) Contrast Nehemiah's behavior during his service as governor with preceding governors' behavior.
- b) What is Nehemiah's motivation for acting differently for 12 long years in **v15**?
13. If Nehemiah were your leader at that time, what impact might his example have had on you?

14. a) **V17-18**, describe yet another important responsibility of the governor.
- b) What motivated Nehemiah to handle that responsibility the way he did?
15. What would God say is your motivation for leading those under your care?
16. What adjectives would you use to describe Nehemiah's Godly leadership?
17. Nehemiah made a request to God in **V19**. Write your prayer request based on thoughts you had while answering questions 5, 10b or 15.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Compare the following Scriptures that shaped why Nehemiah publicly confronted the wealthier Jews for taking advantage of the poorer Jews. Identify the similarities and differences in these passages.
- Exodus 22:25-27 _____
- Leviticus 25:14, 17 _____
- Deuteronomy 24:10-13 _____
2. In **V9** Nehemiah says, in essence, that a right fear of God is the root for right treatment of others including a right testimony to those who don't yet know the Lord. Discover more pros to having a right fear of God:
- Exodus 20:20 _____
- Ecclesiastes 7:15-18 _____
- Psalms 25:12 _____
- Psalms 103:17 _____
- Proverbs 9:10 _____
- Jeremiah 32:39 _____

