



INTRODUCTION

Part 7 - Nehemiah

People love Bible stories, because they involve ordinary people doing extraordinary things—with the help of God.

Our summer series, The Ordinaries, will explore examples & lessons from some of the most beloved Old Testament Bible stories.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think most people care about the needs of other people? Explain your answer. What about you?
2. How do you usually respond when you see someone begging on a street corner or when you discover that someone has a financial need or some other physical or emotional need? Why do you think we are hesitant to help others out sometimes?
3. Read Nehemiah 1:1-11. Why do you think Nehemiah responded the way he did when he learned the news about Jerusalem? What are some things you observe about his prayer in Nehemiah, chapter 1?
4. Why do you think we are not more impacted when we learn about the problems, needs or difficulties other people are facing?
5. How do you think we can develop more compassion toward others?
6. Read Nehemiah 2:1-8. Would you agree that we often don't act on something because we don't care enough to do anything? What is the connection between "the heart" and "the hands" when it comes to making a difference in this world?
7. Are there any other lessons we can learn from Nehemiah's example?
8. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

APPLICATION

How do you respond to others in need? Compassion can motivate us to help those with physical, emotional, or mental needs. At times, we feel compassion when we can relate to another person's situation. However, we also have a tendency to disregard others' needs for many reasons. We may minimize or ignore problems, because we're too busy, or unsure of how we can help. We may be indifferent to their situation, so we overlook it, assuming someone else can help more.

In most cases, unless a situation impacts us, we make no effort to have an impact on others. We should care about the suffering, needs, spiritual welfare, and more of other people. When we care for others, we can grow closer to God. As we grow closer to Him, He can help change our hearts. We need to take opportunities to meet the needs of others, and ask God for the wisdom to know when to do so.

KEY VERSES

Nehemiah 1:1-11
Nehemiah 2:1-8