

RISE UP & BUILD

A SERIES ON THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 5

WELCOME.

WORSHIP.

Sing: *HOLY FOREVER*

WORD.

Introduction: In this chapter, Nehemiah addresses the social and economic injustices faced by the people, advocating for them and working to alleviate their suffering. While other leaders abused their authority, Nehemiah did what is right (Micah 6:8).

Scripture: Nehemiah 5

Nehemiah chapter 5 can be outlined this way:

- A. Nehemiah heard legitimate complaints of conflicts and injustices and was indignant.
- B. Nehemiah did not want the work to continue until the conflict was resolved.
- C. Nehemiah found a resolution through intentional and prayerful communication and action.
- D. Nehemiah required repentance and retribution from the perpetrators.
- E. Nehemiah led fairly by sharing what he had with others.

1. According to this passage, who and what provokes Nehemiah's anger? Why does he say in verse 9 that what they are doing is "not good"? If you struggle to answer this question, see Exodus 22:25, Leviticus 25:36, and Deuteronomy 15:1–18.

2. Think about your context. Who are some of the most vulnerable, voiceless, marginalized, or powerless people in your city? Try to be specific.

3. When people use the word "injustice," it can sometimes mean different things to different people. What do you think it means from a biblical perspective? What makes something just or unjust? According to what standard?

4. Read Nehemiah 5:12–13. As Nehemiah rebukes those engaged in exploitation, he issues an interesting charge against them in verse 9. "Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God?" Why do you think Nehemiah mentions the "fear of God" as a rebuke against injustice? What's the connection? For help see Isaiah 61:8–9, Psalm 146:7–9, and Deuteronomy 25:13–16.

5. Nehemiah makes upholding justice a communal commitment. Think about the church today. What role do you see the church playing in upholding justice and pursuing mercy? Try to support your answer with Scripture.

6. Have you noticed how some people in the church feel uniquely passionate about mercy and justice while others feel uncomfortable at the mere mention of them? What about you? Think about the people you identified in question 2. How can you engage in showing mercy and advocating for justice on their behalf?

WORK.

- There is injustice everywhere.
What do you think keeps Christians from seeing injustice around us?
- Pray that you might find ways to speak against evil, sin and injustice in a godly and gospel-centered way.