



Week 9: Coaching Guide

Accountability check! Are you being faithful to work as a team (Essential #7) by faithfully reading the coaching guide?

Please reply to the curriculum packet email with your response to this question.

Looking forward to working with you in 2016!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Brandon



Week 9 (December 27-January 2): Lesson Guide

Open In Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

Ask the group to recall the guidelines for discussion that we use to create a safe environment.

Ask someone to retell last week's story from Luke 2:8-20 (The Shepherds and the Angels).

Ask someone on your team to read the Hook Question – Ask, "What is your natural reaction when circumstances become stressful? How do you typically respond to stress?"

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

After years of warning from God about their idolatrous living, the Jews were captured by other nations and became slaves to these nations. This historical event is known as "the exile." Although the Jews were forced to leave the Promised Land, God was faithful to bring them back to Israel in His timing.

Today's story is about a man named Nehemiah. Nehemiah was a Jew who lived in Persia because of the exile. He was the cupbearer of the king (which meant his job was to test the king's cup for poison by drinking from it!). Nehemiah's story is told in the book of Nehemiah in the Old Testament. God used Nehemiah to help reestablish His people in Israel. Nehemiah is most famous for his efforts to rebuild the wall around the city of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah was a great man of prayer. When circumstances were troubling and stressful, Nehemiah often turned to the Lord in prayer. In fact, if you read the book of Nehemiah, you will find that it is riddled with Nehemiah's prayers as he intentionally depended on God to be his peace and helper in the midst of trouble.

Read Nehemiah 1 to finish the background. Once read, you are ready for today's story...

Tell the story from Nehemiah 2:1-8

Rebuild the story – (Group members retell the story based on what they remember)

Read Nehemiah 2:1-8 – (Ask the group to read these verses)

Discuss these questions:

Head Questions:
Quicker tempo.

- What do you like about this story, and is there anything you dislike?
- Check your understanding: What did Nehemiah do when he was fearful of the king?
- Do you think Nehemiah's confidence changed after he spoke to the Lord in prayer? Why or why not?
- What does this story teach us about God?

- How do you relate to this story?

Heart Questions:
Slow down & wait!

- Has there been a stressful situation in your life recently? Listen to God. What Word does He want to speak over you and your situation today that will bring you peace?

Ask for a volunteer to retell the story one last time.

Ask for a volunteer to tell the story next week.

Prayer Requests (ask someone in the group to take notes so you can email the requests to the group)

Pray and Dismiss