

different

Week 8: Don't Slack Off, Shine

Pray: Go around the group and ask God to open your eyes to the needs in our world.

Troubles. They appear like mountain high piles of rubble. Too high to climb or clear. Plus there are plenty of nitpickers and naysayers who knock down any attempt to solve the problems. Too many talking heads. Not enough walking feet and working hands. God, however, has no time for slackers. He tells us to go out and shine.

Read: Nehemiah 4:6-23

Watch: "Slackers"

Reflect

1. Have you ever faced a project which, at first, looked impossible, yet turned out great? Describe how you felt before, during and after it.
2. Nehemiah gives up a comfortable and powerful position to help his discouraged and unskilled people rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem. What opposition does he face from the outside? The inside? How do you react to and deal with such pressure?
3. What strategies does Nehemiah use to meet the threats? What lessons on leadership can you learn from the way he mobilizes the people?
4. Read Nehemiah 6:1-13. The opponents use several methods to stop Nehemiah. How does he answer each challenge? What principles can help you to face similar methods?
5. Paul writes, "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." (Romans 12:14). Do you ever lose your spiritual fervor and feel dry in your relationship with God? What may cause this? How do you reignite your zeal for serving the Lord?

Steps:

Under Nehemiah's leadership, the Jews completed the walls in 52 days. Nehemiah proclaimed, "This work had been done with the help of our God" (Nehemiah 6:16). In a practical way, how can you draw more on God's power especially in overwhelming situations?

Share with your group one step of faith that will help you make a difference this week. Ask one person to hold you accountable to this step. Examples:

- A. Select a date for the next time your group will participate in your chosen mission.
- B. Choose a mission challenge that is so big it can only be accomplished by the power of God.
- C. Decide as a Group to launch another Growth Group.
- D. Create an action step of your own.

Pray: As you pray, ask Jesus to use your life to shine His light and make a real difference.