

# CrossWalk **notes**

## Leading God's Way Guided by Compassion

November 17, 2019 / Dan Solofra

<sup>1</sup> Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry **against their fellow Jews**. <sup>2</sup> Some were saying, "We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain." <sup>3</sup> Others were saying, "We are **mortgaging our fields**, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine." <sup>4</sup> Still others were saying, "We have had to borrow money to **pay the king's tax** on our fields and vineyards." <sup>5</sup> Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to **subject our sons and daughters to slavery**. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, **but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others**." Nehemiah 5:1-5, NIV

**Heartless leaders use difficult times to take advantage of those who are most \_\_\_\_\_ and least \_\_\_\_\_.**

<sup>6</sup> When I heard their outcry and these charges, **I was very angry**. <sup>7</sup> I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, "You are charging **your own people** interest!" So I called together a large meeting to deal with them. Nehemiah 5:6-7, NIV

**Nehemiah \_\_\_\_\_ emotionally but \_\_\_\_\_ rationally and directly to selfish behavior.**

<sup>8</sup> and said: "As far as possible, **we have bought back our fellow Jews** who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!" They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say. <sup>9</sup> So I continued, "What you are doing is not right. Shouldn't you **walk in the fear of our God** to avoid the reproach of our

Gentile enemies?" <sup>10</sup> I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest! <sup>11</sup> **Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil.**" Nehemiah 5:8-11, NIV

**Godly leaders understand the concept of \_\_\_\_\_, and live as someone who has been redeemed.**

<sup>12</sup> "We will give it back," they said. "And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say." Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials **take an oath** to do what they had promised. Nehemiah 5:12, NIV

**Nehemiah had the leaders take an \_\_\_\_\_, because he knew how easy it is to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

<sup>15</sup> But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But **out of reverence for God** I did not act like that. <sup>16</sup> Instead, **I devoted myself to the work** on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land. <sup>17</sup> Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, Nehemiah 5:15-17<sup>a</sup>, NIV

**My \_\_\_\_\_ will always be a reflection of my \_\_\_\_\_.**

### MEMORY VERSE

Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But **out of reverence for God** I did not act like that. Nehemiah 5:15<sup>b</sup>

**My next step:** Jesus has redeemed me. He saved me in my greatest need. Out of reverence for Christ I will be guided by compassion for those I serve.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.

# Impact Group Questions

## Leading God's Way – Guided by Compassion

### Open with Prayer

### Welcome to Group!

Our CrossWalk values guide the way we act as a family. They are listed on the banners as you walk into church. What does it mean to you that CrossWalk strives to be a church that unchurched people will love to attend?

### Going Back to Sunday

Each week we will begin with the same question, **“What about the message from Sunday challenged, confused, encouraged or made the biggest impact on you?”** Use your sermon notes to jog your memory if you have them.

### Refresh Your Memory:

### Read Nehemiah 5:1-5

Many people at Nehemiah's time were going through difficult financial times. They were forced to mortgage their fields and even sell their children as servants. Have you had any experience with poverty or simply being unemployed? Share as much as you are comfortable, explain the emotion you think these people were going through at Nehemiah's time.

**PRAYER:** Take time to pray for the poor and those struggling to find employment in our community and congregation.

Remember that Nehemiah was not just building a wall, he was building a people. A big part of Jewish culture was the concept of redemption. Nehemiah 5:8 reads, *“As far as possible, we have **bought back** our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.”*

According to this verse – what does redemption involve? Why would it be a relief for the person who was redeemed?

Why is the concept of redemption a beautiful and appropriate picture of what Jesus has done for us spiritually?

How will remembering the fact that Jesus redeemed you affect the way that you look at those who are caught: in spiritual slavery?

In financial slavery?

In what ways does CrossWalk show compassion? In what way could you lead a change to improve it?

### My Next Step:

I will open my eyes to the need of those around me. A great next step might be to go to Financial Peace University or encourage someone who is caught in debt to go to it. If you are interested in hosting or going to a class contact Pastor Dan.

### Doing Life Together:

On your phones look up [povertyusa.org](http://povertyusa.org). Click on “learn” and review the poverty facts. What stats on this page stick out or surprise you?

Next click on “Act”. What is one thing you can do moving forward? (Don't forget we have a “Love One Another” offering coming up that funds out Compassions fund for the year!)

### Friendship:

Spend the final 10 to 15 minutes of group catching up with other group members. Take time to get to know those you don't know quite as well. Make sure to include everyone in the group.

### Reminder:

**Pastor Chris Johnson Installation** -- Pastor Chris and his wife, Jamie, and 3 of their sons are in Phoenix! There will be an installation service to mark the official beginning of Pastor Johnson's ministry of November 24, 2019 at 3:00 PM. Plan to join us for this special service!

**Feed a Family:** Consider giving a donation and/or signing up to help. All info can be found on the Church Center App under “events”.