Normal Campus Sermon Study - 10.18.2026

Leader's Corner

HONOR | Nehemiah 3

Main Idea: Honor is recognizing the value of others and choosing to contribute to something bigger than ourselves.

Main Passage: Nehemiah 3

Main Practice: Honor others contribution and determine what you are called to contribute.

Leader Summary: At first glance, Nehemiah 3 seems like a chapter we might skip. It's filled with unfamiliar names, construction assignments, and geographical details. But look closer, and we discover something beautiful: God's work is accomplished through ordinary people who recognize that everybody has a part.

The rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls wasn't the accomplishment of one extraordinary leader. It was the collective faithfulness of people from different backgrounds, occupations, families, and communities, each contributing to something bigger than themselves.

Throughout our Nehemiah series, we've been asking two important questions: What is God calling me to do? Who is God shaping me to become? This week, we discover that God uses people of honor. People who recognize the value of others, lead through serving, and faithfully contribute—even when their work goes unnoticed.

Leader Encouragement: As you lead this week's discussion, help your group recognize the significance of both their individual contributions and their collective calling. Encourage them to consider not only where God is inviting them to serve but also how they can honor the people serving alongside them.

Prayer and Praise

Opening Prayer:

Thank God for the people whose faithfulness, sacrifice, and service have shaped your life. Ask Him to open your eyes to the opportunities He has placed before you to contribute to His work.

Suggested Worship Songs:

* Build Your Church — Elevation Worship / Maverick City Music

* The Servant King — Graham Kendrick

* Available — Elevation Worship

Opening Conversation:

Think about someone whose faithful service has made a meaningful difference in your life, perhaps without them even realizing it.

Who comes to mind, and what impact did they have?

Group Discussion

Read Nehemiah 3:1–12, 20–3

1. Unity in Diversity — Everybody Has a Part

Nehemiah 3 describes priests, merchants, goldsmiths, government officials, families, and ordinary citizens working side by side. Despite their differences, they were united around one mission.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–27.

* What stands out to you about the variety of people God used to rebuild Jerusalem's walls?

* Paul describes the Church as one body with many different parts. Why is it sometimes difficult to recognize the value of contributions that look different from our own?

* How might our small group and church become stronger when we recognize and celebrate the unique gifts and contributions of others?

2. Working Together — Building Beyond Ourselves

Throughout Nehemiah 3, we repeatedly encounter phrases like "next to him," "beside him," and "after him." Each person's work connected to someone else's. The people weren't simply rebuilding individual sections of a wall. Together, they were restoring something that would benefit an entire community.

Read Jeremiah 29:7.

* What does the repeated emphasis on people working beside one another teach us about God's design for community?

* What changes when we begin seeing our service not simply as helping our church but as participating in God's work for the good of our neighbors?

* Where might God be inviting our group to work alongside others to bring hope and healing to our community?

3. Leading Through Serving — Honor in Action

Nehemiah 3 begins with Eliashib the high priest and the other priests rebuilding the Sheep Gate. Rather than simply directing the work, these spiritual leaders participated in it.

Read Mark 10:42–45 and 1 Peter 2:9–10.

* What does the example of the priests reveal about the relationship between leadership, humility, and service?

* Jesus redefines greatness through serving others. Where do you see the tension between our culture's definition of greatness and His?

* How might embracing our identity as a royal priesthood change the way we approach opportunities to serve at church, at home, or in our community?

4. Faithfulness Remembered — Your Contribution Matters

Nehemiah records the names of dozens of people who participated in rebuilding the wall. Some repaired sections near their homes. Others went above and beyond. Baruch is specifically recognized for his enthusiastic work. Meanwhile, verse 5 records that the nobles of Tekoa refused to participate.

Their contributions—and their choices—mattered.

Read Colossians 3:23–24 and Hebrews 6:10.

* Why do you think Scripture preserves so many names and individual contributions in this chapter?

* What can we learn from Baruch's example about the attitude and heart we bring to serving?

* How does knowing that God sees and remembers our faithfulness encourage us when our contributions seem small or unnoticed?

Practice

Moving from Understanding to Transformation - - Does My Part Really Matter? Nehemiah 3 reminds us that everybody has a part in God's work. Not everyone has the same assignment, but every contribution matters.

RECOGNIZE — Whose contribution can I honor?

Who has been faithfully serving, encouraging, leading, or caring for others without much recognition?

Action: This week, intentionally thank or encourage someone whose contribution deserves to be recognized.

REFLECT — Where am I already contributing? Sometimes we overlook the significance of what God is already doing through us because our contributions feel ordinary.

Action: Identify one area where God has called you to be faithful. How might your perspective change if you recognized its eternal significance?

RESPOND — Where is my section of the wall? The rebuilding of Jerusalem required people to move beyond observation into participation.

Action: Identify one specific opportunity to contribute to God's work through Eastview, your Life Group, your neighborhood, or another community organization.

Group Challenge: Our Chapter 3

Imagine someone writing a chapter about how God worked through our Life Group.

What would we want that chapter to say about us?

Discuss one practical way your group could serve together, meet a need, or partner with others to bring hope and healing to your community.

Further Study

Romans 12:3–8 — Paul reminds believers that God has given different gifts to different people for the good of the whole body.

Reflection: Am I faithfully using what God has entrusted to me, or am I comparing my contribution to someone else's?

Philippians 2:3–8 — The Honor of Humility. Jesus demonstrates the ultimate example of humility through His willingness to serve and sacrifice.

Reflection: How does the example of Jesus challenge the way I view status, recognition, and serving others?

1 Corinthians 15:58 — Labor That Is Not in Vain. Paul encourages believers to remain steadfast and fully committed to the work of the Lord.

Reflection: What would change in my daily faithfulness if I truly believed that nothing done for the Lord is wasted?