

## **Biblical Leadership**

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

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### **Course description: Part 4**

This course continues the discussion regarding leadership style and character as it relates to leaders in the Old Testament. An examination of Nehemiah's leadership points us to several lessons needed as a foundation for leaders in the church today.

### **Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:**

- A. Studied the leadership style and character of Nehemiah.
- B. Discussed how his leadership style and character play a part of the leadership needed for God's people today.

### **Outline of the class:**

- A. Divide the class into four groups and give each group one of the passages from Nehemiah listed below to examine the style and character of Nehemiah's leadership.
  - 1. Nehemiah 1-2 (both chapters)
  - 2. Nehemiah 4:1-23
  - 3. Nehemiah 5:14-19
  - 4. Nehemiah 6:1-19
- B. Ask each group to take 10-15 minutes to read through their section in Nehemiah and make a list of what they observe from that section and how it relates to leadership needed today among God's people.
- C. Once the groups finish making their list, ask each group to share with everyone else what they learned from their section. List these on the whiteboard for discussion.
- D. The following list may assist the teacher in adding to the findings of each group:
  - 1. Nehemiah 1-2
    - a. Fasting and prayer
    - b. Humility seen in the acknowledgement of sin followed by repentance
    - c. Advance preparation for resources needed
    - d. Evaluation before action
    - e. Motivation

2. Nehemiah 4:1-23
  - a. Discouraged, but not distracted
  - b. Prayer followed by action
  - c. Keep doing the work with an eye on the opposition
3. Nehemiah 5:14-19
  - a. Leadership begins with setting the right example
  - b. Leaders must also get involved in the work
  - c. Continue to pray
4. Nehemiah 6:1-19
  - a. When doing the Lord's work, do not listen to those who try to stop it
  - b. Keep praying and do not be afraid
  - c. Finish the work you were called to do

Conclusion:

- A. The life and leadership of Nehemiah represent a great example of leadership throughout the Bible.
- B. The constant we see in the example of Nehemiah is his prayer life. Leaders must be people of prayer. In every situation he prayed and then took action. This is an incredible lesson for leaders today. We pray, but we must also act.
- C. Sometimes, we have to finish the work before we can truly recognize the power of God in answering our prayers and guiding the whole process.
- D. Commit to an additional 10 minutes each day this week in prayer, but focus on something specific as it relates to leadership for this congregation.