



10-29-17 Sermon Discussion Guide "Finishing the Project"



Context

Our Christian Education theme for year is "Game On!" We are encouraging people to be fully engaged participants in the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Throughout this year, the second Sunday of each month will be our "Game On Sundays." We'll explore how we play this game as Christians and what we need in order to play it well. This fall, in the remaining weeks, we are going through the Old Testament book of Nehemiah. This book describes events that take place in the Persian Empire and in Jerusalem during the 5th century BC. The nation of Israel was under the rule of the Persians. Nehemiah was an Israelite servant of the king, Artaxerxes. This story is important for us today because it shows the incredible impact one person can have when God gives them a passionate calling. In these coming weeks we'll explore the calling of Nehemiah and how God used him to change history.

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

Think of a time when you completed a difficult or drawn-out project. How did you feel upon completing it? How did you grow or learn by seeing the project through to the end?

Discussing the Text – Nehemiah 6

1. If you had to summarize this chapter, how would you summarize it? Do you notice any recurring themes in this chapter, especially as you consider everything that has happened so far?
2. What kinds of threats does Nehemiah face throughout this chapter?
3. How does Nehemiah respond to these threats in verses 9 and 14?
4. What happens to the wall in verse 15?
5. What is the impact in the surrounding nations to this news? (verse 16)

So what?

1. How can Nehemiah's example in this passage help you better cope with people who wrongly accuse you?
2. What role does prayer play in your life when people are challenging or threatening you?
3. When does the amount of resistance you face in a project make you decide to quit? How do you know when it's time to give up and move on?
4. Do you think God cares if we finish the projects we set out to complete? Why or why not? What's at stake if you don't complete the task you've been called to do?
5. How does this passage encourage you to stick with a project you've begun? What is the cost if you don't complete it? What is the cost of completing the project? How will you know if it's worth it?

Prayer

Share something you are thankful for and/or something for which you need support. Have the group pray for perseverance and discipline this week. Have the group pray for God to grant them the strength and courage to finish what they've begun.