

Make it Better

As Christ-followers, we don't just show the way, we lead the way. But what does it look like for all of us to lead? How do we lead from where God has us right now? Let's look at some real-life examples from the Bible and learn how it's done.



INTRODUCTION

Nehemiah embodies the type of leader who made things around him better. He was credible and invested. He challenged the status quo, and he had a plan, which in turn inspired others to also make it better.

STARTER QUESTION

Salt is a multi-purpose household staple. Discuss several different uses and benefits of salt. If Jesus calls us the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13), list some of the ways we can make things better.

INTO THE WORD

Nehemiah's character gave him credibility. Review how he was trustworthy (Nehemiah 1:12), consistent (Nehemiah 2:1), and humble (Nehemiah 2:5). In what ways are character and credibility similar? How are they different? What other aspects of our character impact our credibility?

Read the following verses: Nehemiah 2:5; Isaiah 6:8; Esther 4:14. What do these passages tell us about leading from a distance? Think of the people in your life who were invested in the well-being of others. How did they bridge the distance gap?

Matthew 20:26, Philippians 2:3-4, Psalms 37:5, and Proverbs 27:23-24 give us insight into what is required of Godly leaders. Review briefly how Nehemiah's character aligns with the instructions of these verses. What other Biblical figures come to mind?

APPLICATION

Nehemiah saw a problem and took action. However, if problems aren't dealt with, there is always a consequence. Consider a problem or issue burdening our community. What might happen if things don't change? What obstacles do we as a community face when addressing a need for change? How can we tackle them like Nehemiah?

Like the Israelites who lived for years with a crumbling wall, sometimes we also live without realizing a need for change. What might impede us from recognizing brokenness in our lives?

What things stand out to you from Nehemiah's example of leadership? What do you find most personally compelling?

PRAYER

Pray as a group that God would help us identify what is broken in our life and community and how we can help to "make it better."