

Victoria Fellowship Church

International & Interdenominational

Bible Study Worksheet – June 28, 2020

Theme: Nehemiah: A Vessel of Restoration **Topic:** Lessons from Nehemiah – Revival of God's People

Main Text: Nehemiah 13:1-31

Key verse: Nehemiah 13:30b *"I also assigned duties to the priests and the Levites, each to his service. (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: Though the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem took Nehemiah less than two months, he however stayed on for 12 years before returning to his job in Susa in the service of Artaxerxes king of Persia. Yet his heart for the welfare of God's people and for God's honour would not leave him. So, after a while, he again obtained leave from King Artaxerxes to return to Jerusalem to see how the people were faring (Nehemiah 13:6). It must have been heart-breaking for him, upon his return, to discover that the people had once again, cast God and His words behind them

1. **(a) In which areas had the people fallen back on their vows to God. See Nehemiah 13:7, 10, 15, 23 (b) How do you think the example of Eliashib, the High priest (Nehemiah 13:4, 28) contributed to the widespread compromise in other areas (c) What can we learn from this as leaders and as those being led?**

Obviously, Eliashib did not comply with both the verbal and written vows the people made to put away their foreign wives (Ezra 10:11-12). So, we see how one compromise led to another. By compromising their doctrine not to let any Ammonite into the house of God (Nehemiah 13:1-5), Eliashib, the High priest, could not bring himself to enforce all the other terms of the people's vow. Before long, the people neglected the temple and the temple servants, were compromising the rules on business dealings, as well as in family life. It took Nehemiah's timely return, to once again call the people to order and rekindle the revival spirit.

2. **(a) Let participants read Nehemiah 13:7-8, 10, 15, 23 and identify some actions and attitudes which helped Nehemiah in bringing the people back to God. (b) How would you describe the steps Nehemiah took to address the situation he found? E.g. Nehemiah 13: 8-9, 11, 13, 17-19, 21, 25, 28 (c) What lessons can we learn from Nehemiah?**

Nehemiah's zeal for the honour of God and His people has not waned. And he was ready to do and take every necessary action to restore things. He did not seclude himself in the governor's palace or among the high and mighty only. He was in the temple, in the marketplace, among the people, observant. He took tough but necessary actions as he observed, learned, or became aware of the compromises of the people. This included taking decisive action even among the priesthood and clergy: *'Thus I cleansed them of everything pagan. I also assigned duties to the priests and the Levites, each to his service'* (Nehemiah 13:30). Any reform would have been short-lived if no steps were taken to ensure that the spiritual life of the people was well directed. Revival is sustained when the various parts of the Church are functioning well.

3. **(a) How does assignment of specific tasks to the priests and Levites help in sustaining this revival God started with Nehemiah? (b) Four times Nehemiah prayed about the work he was doing. See Nehemiah 13:14, 22, 29 & 31. What do we learn from this about personal and corporate revival? (c) How do you think Nehemiah's prayers helped him in the difficult actions he took? In what area(s) of our life and Church can we apply this lesson?**

Prayer: *Father, thank You for Your Holy Spirit who helps us in our walk with You. Help us to be alert to the ways we might be tempted to compromise in our teachings and daily practices and help us to be courageous in dealing with permissiveness in our lives, in Jesus name, Amen.*