

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – February 12, 2023

Theme: Servant Leadership Topic: Exemplary Leadership

Main Texts: Nehemiah 1: 1-4; Nehemiah 2: 1-20

Key verse: Nehemiah 2: 17b “... Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” (NIV)

INTRODUCTION: Apart from the initial study on Jesus as our model of servant leadership, the rest of our studies on the theme have focused on aspects and attributes of servant leadership. Recall that the main objective of this quarter’s theme is that we might learn about God’s perspective on leadership and how to become a godly leader. Today’s topic is **Exemplary Leadership**. A simple definition of exemplary leadership is one that models all that godly leadership entails. Nehemiah, in our text today, is one such example. At the time of this account, Nehemiah had a privileged position as the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes.

1. **From Nehemiah 1:1-4; 2:1-5, 17-18. (a) What attributes of exemplary leadership do we see in Nehemiah? (b) What roles do these qualities play in servant (godly) leadership? (c) Let participants list some of these qualities which they possess; and mention specific ways these can be used to make their leadership (at home, office, church) more impactful.**

According to leadership experts, the top exemplary leadership practices are modeling the way, inspiring vision, enabling action, and bringing courage and faith. Nehemiah exemplified all these. He had a great passion for God’s people and for the nation to be in a right relationship with the Lord. He was a man of prayer and action. He was also courageous. He was a good planner and good executor. His faith and courage, and clear plans inspired the people to accomplish what they themselves thought impossible. They did that in record time and amid great opposition. Nehemiah as a godly leader, realized that if Israel was going to do a work for God, it had to come from a willing heart. The ability to inspire people to pursue God’s will is a key ingredient of true godly leadership.

2. **(a) It has been said that exemplary leadership models the way, inspires, and enables action, fueled by courage and faith. How did these qualities play out in Nehemiah’s leadership and in the people’s lives? (b) Read Nehemiah 2:2, 10, 13-17. What challenges did Nehemiah have to overcome in the process? (c) Let participants share an example of a situation where they can bring these qualities to bear to the glory of God.**

Worldly positions and pecks of office can dull a man’s senses. He may have initially seen his position as a platform for furthering God’s kingdom. But often, that sense of mission is soon lost. Last week, we saw how Mordecai had to cajole Queen Esther to get involved. Not so with Nehemiah. He could have minded his business, comfortable in the service of the king. Better still, he could have sent someone to carry out the project. Instead, he chose to provide the leadership required to remedy the situation. He prayed to God and asked for leave of absence. He secured all required permits and resources. When he arrived in Jerusalem, he took time to acquaint himself with the extent of the work, thinking through and framing a plan of action. Nehemiah exemplifies a leadership that serves the people, as he used his position to better the lot of his people and advance the cause of God.

3. **(a) Nehemiah dared to request the rebuilding of his fatherland; risked his job in asking for a 12-year leave of absence. What else did he risk in this mission? (b) What do these tell us about the heart of an exemplary leader? (c) What can we learn from Nehemiah on how we should respond to the threats and intimidations in our quest to be exemplary servant leaders?**

Prayer: Lord, we are thankful for the exemplary leadership of Nehemiah. Help us to model this Nehemiah type of leadership in our spheres of influence with a complete trust in You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.