



Small Group Study Guide
Rebuilding the Walls:
Nehemiah

“God will fight for us!”
-Nehemiah

Week 3 Group Reflection Questions

1. How were the people having their life taken away?
2. What do we learn about Nehemiah’s leadership style from his response?
3. What does this passage tell us about how we live together in community?
4. Give examples of life-affirming and life-taking decisions we make everyday.
5. How might you encourage others to make life-affirming decisions?

January 20, 2008

Choose Life

Nehemiah 5:1-13

Here we read a passage about justice. Now what exactly does that mean in this instance? Some people might read socialism into this passage (everyone gets the same stuff). However, that is not the cry of this passage. The people’s outrage comes out in this passage: “want to be able to survive from all the work we’re putting out.” A few were taking advantage of this extreme situation by putting loads on the peoples’ backs that they couldn’t handle. It simply was not possible for the people to live. As a community they had the resources to survive together. Yet, if some used this as a time for extraordinary gain, no one would survive.

In the larger context of the Bible we see a reoccurring theme: choose life. God knows we make decision every day that will give life or take it away. Sometimes those are literal life decisions and sometimes they are abundant life decisions. God desires for everyone not only to have life, but to have it abundantly. How are you choosing “life” in the decisions you make? How might you encourage others to make life affirming decisions?

