

# Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Standing Strong

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: The Enemy Within

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Memory Verse: Nehemiah 9:10 NIV

You sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his officials and all the people of his land, for you knew how arrogantly the Egyptians treated them. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day.

*The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word to lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.*

**Big Idea:** Sin (disunity) is destructive. It stops the work of God

## Read Nehemiah 5

1. In Deuteronomy 23:19-20 God sets forth rules about charging interest. Despite this, the nobles do it anyway. Why do you think they behaved that way? Have you ever known something went against God's Word, but you did it anyway? When these types of events occur, why do you think you choose "me first, my way"?
2. Nehemiah was deeply angered by the financial oppression that was occurring (v. 6). Discuss when, if ever, anger is an acceptable emotion. When you get angry, how can you practice self-control so the anger can be used in constructive ways to solve a problem?
3. Nehemiah listened and then paused to think before responding (v. 7). How do you typically respond in situations that make you angry? What would it look like for you to respond with promptness and wisdom, like Nehemiah?



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4. After Nehemiah brings these injustices to the attention of the officials and nobles, they respond with repentance and action (v.12-13). What does their response tell us about their character or their regard for Nehemiah? If you were approached about sinful behavior in your life, how would you respond?
5. Nehemiah called the people to publicly commit to making things right (v. 12-13). Why do you think public accountability is important in changing behavior? How can accountability play a role in our spiritual growth and relationships? Are there any areas where having more accountability would be helpful for you?
6. Nehemiah is appointed governor and he chooses not to take advantage of his position by refusing the food allowance and not requiring any additional tax, serving the people instead of burdening them (v. 14-19). When people are used to being taken advantage of or used, what kind of impact do you think it had on them to have Nehemiah look out for them and care for them? When has someone sacrificed something for their own personal benefit to help you out? How did this impact you?
7. Nehemiah is providing provision not only for those who are part of his community but also those who are outside of the Jewish community (v. 17). How does showing generosity to those outside Christianity reflect God's character? What are some ways you can show generosity to those who do not yet know Jesus?
8. Nehemiah is a leader who leads by example. He is able to tell others to do what is right because his own walk was right. According to DC Talk "The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians, who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable." Why do you think authenticity is so important to those who are skeptical of Christianity?



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