



NEHEMIAH

Re: BUILD
Re: NEW
Re: FORM

Re: GROUP

Discussion Guide: Small Group Questions – Returned to Order (Nehemiah 13:10–22)

Opening Reflection

1. Read Nehemiah 13:10–11. Why do you think Nehemiah asked the officials, “*Why is the house of God forsaken?*” What does that question reveal about the priorities of the people?

The House of God Forsaken

2. The people’s neglect of the temple started with small decisions that created a “domino effect.” What are some small choices in your own life that have had bigger spiritual consequences—positive or negative?
3. Nehemiah restored order by appointing trustworthy leaders (v. 13). How can reliable leadership and accountability help us keep God’s work from being neglected today—in the church, at home, or personally?
4. Nehemiah asked God to “remember” the good he had done (v. 14). If you could ask God to remember one thing about your life, what would it be? What’s something you’d rather Him forget? How does Jesus’ work on the cross reshape the way we think about those questions?

The Sabbath Profaned

5. Read Nehemiah 13:15–18. The people had broken their promise to honor the Sabbath. Why do you think it was so easy for them to fall back into old patterns?
6. What practices or commitments in your own life are most easily compromised when you’re “too busy” or distracted?
7. The New Testament teaches that Christ is our ultimate Sabbath rest (Col. 2:16–17; Rom. 14:5–8). How does resting in Jesus free us to live with greater faithfulness and balance today?

Restoring Order

8. Nehemiah used strong action—commands, warnings, and directions—to restore obedience (vv. 19–22). What does this teach us about the seriousness of sin and the need for decisive action in our lives?

9. What practical “gates” (boundaries, rhythms, or habits) can you set up in your life to guard against neglecting God or treating His ways as ordinary?

Group Prayer Time

- Thank God that He does not forsake His house or His people, even when we falter.
- Pray for wisdom to notice “small dominoes” before they become bigger problems.
- Ask God to help each person in the group live in the rest and freedom Christ provides, keeping Him at the center of life.
- Pray for the courage to take action where order needs to be restored in our hearts, homes, and church.