

LEADER AS STEWARD

How leadership requires intentional stewarding of resources

Nehemiah 1:1-2:8

Discussion Questions

1. Take some time to make observations and ask questions about this passage.
2. What impresses you about Nehemiah's prayer in chapter 1?
3. What evidence do you see in chapter 2 that would indicate that Nehemiah had planned ahead, in addition to the time he spent praying?
4. How is Nehemiah a part of the answer to his own prayers?

Putting It Into Practice

Chose 1-2 of the following stories to discuss as a group and answer the following questions:

- What sorts of risks are the individuals in danger of?
- What resources are available to the individuals? How could each person or community better steward their resources?

Story #1

Neal transfers from a community college where he had spent a lot of last year partying and struggling with his grades. He starts this year with a strong conviction that he needs to prioritize his faith and his academics more, so he plugs in with InterVarsity. He genuinely enjoys his time with this community and makes a few friends in his small group. As the semester gets busier, Neal keeps skipping out on time with his small group and Core Group gatherings in favor of working on homework. He feels that his relationship with God is suffering but keeps promising himself he'll budget his time better next week. He knows the time he spends on social media could be scaled back but struggles to stay focused on his homework. When his InterVarsity friends check in with him, Neal sometimes neglects to respond as he feels guilty and ashamed. His small group leader offers to meet up over lunch and reconnect, but Neal declines. As Winter Retreat approaches, he's feeling like he should probably sit it out and hopes to attend the next retreat instead.

Story #2

Jessica and Devonte have been building a small group community together. They had 8 different new students showing up over the first month and then experienced a sharp drop in attendance. They faithfully text everyone each week before small group. It's just been the two of them plus a core member who was involved last year for the past few weeks. Jessica feels frustrated by these people not showing up to small group when some of them are still making the time to go to Core Group. She tells Devonte she knew coming in she wouldn't be good at leading a small group. Devonte is alarmed to hear this and wonders if they should both throw in the towel as he doesn't want to lead alone.

Story #3

Diamond has been building a friendship with Tiana, a classmate. She senses the Lord inviting her to more spiritual intentionality with Tiana as Tiana has expressed curiosity around Christianity and has no church background. As they deepen their friendship, Diamond begins to see the ways that Tiana is in a hard place in her life—and in her desire to see Tiana open to Jesus, Diamond tries to be a help and support in any way she can. She drives her drunken friend home from parties, stays up late texting her when she's mentally spiraling, and last night went to bed way too late helping a frantic Tiana with an overdue work assignment.

Diamond knows Tiana needs Jesus in her life but feels so overwhelmed by her friend's struggle that she's considering taking a break from the friendship altogether.

Application Questions

1. What are some of the resources we each have to offer our community? (Time, money, skill, emotional energy, relational energy, etc.)
2. What are some of your resources you are most protective of?
3. What spiritual needs do you see in our chapter community? What are some of the resources God has for our chapter?
4. Spiritually our campus is desperate for Jesus. What resources might our chapter have for the campus?