

Subtle Seductions - Nehemiah

Leader's Notes

QUESTION 1 - focuses on the temptation to be distracted. The first question is a crucial starting point for your group to delve into the distractions they face in life. It's not just an introduction, but a key to understanding and addressing these distractions.

QUESTION 2 - discusses basic distractions. When Nehemiah is confronted with a basic distraction, he responds incredibly well. He recognizes that he is engaged in great work and should not stop. This question asks your group members what is the great work that God is calling them to. You should mention that growing spiritually and maturing in Christ is part of the great work that God is calling them to do. They might also be engaged in a ministry that they feel is life-changing. You might also mention that having a strong Christian marriage and raising Christian children is a great work.

QUESTION 3 - deals with what I call, fear-based distractions. I am praying this third question prompts great discussion amongst your group members because I believe many people can be held back by their fears. A fear of failure that they cannot do what God calls them to do. Please take your time with this question.

QUESTION 4 - deals with what I call, religious distractions. A religious distraction is to focus on a mindless religious practice instead of pursuing a genuine relationship with God. You may want to think of some examples from your life of when you were mindlessly going through the motions of religious practice instead of genuinely pursuing God. The last section of the question asks how we can genuinely pursue God. One key element is that we are more present with God by praying authentic prayers. You might also mention that genuinely pursuing God takes time and that we must set aside time to honestly come before God daily, surrendering ourselves to Him.