**IT TAKES ALL OF US**

**Nehemiah 3**

**THE BIG IDEA: God’s plans for His Kingdom work involves commitment, unity, and diversity among all of His people.**

**THE LOCAL CHURCH MATTERS IN THE COMMUNITY**

* **The first priority of rebuilding the walls in Jerusalem was the gate where the sheep entered that would be sacrificed in the temple.**
* *“The high priest Eliashib and his fellow priests began rebuilding the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and installed its doors.”* (Nehemiah 3:1a)
* **“Churches based on the Word of God can begin to turn a dilapidated community around when they operate biblically.” – Dr. Tony Evans**

**GOD’S DESIGN FOR HIS CHURCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN DIVERSITY**

* **The ruler of this world, Satan, will do everything he can to divide God’s people, but the Gospel of Jesus is the great bridge builder and unifier of people from all tribes, skin hues, and tongues!**
* *“Your name will no longer be Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I will make you the father of many nations.”* (Genesis 17:5)
* *“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations…”* (Matthew 28:19a)
* **God’s eternal Kingdom will be filled with diverse people and God is calling His Church to reflect His Kingdom on earth.**
* *“After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.”* (Revelation 7:9a)

**EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO FULFILL IN GOD’S KINGDOM WORK**

* *“The men of Jericho built next to Eliashib…”* (Nehemiah 3:2)
* *“After him Uzziel son of Harhaiah, the goldsmith, made repairs, and next to him Hananiah son of the perfumer made repairs.”* (Nehemiah 3:8)
* *“Beside him Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs—he and his daughters.”* (Nehemiah 3:12)
* *“and the temple servants living on Ophel made repairs…”* Nehemiah 3:26a)
* *“Each of the priests made repairs…”* (Nehemiah 3:28a)
* *“The goldsmiths and merchants made repairs…”* (Nehemiah 3:32a)
* **No matter how inadequate you may feel, or how insignificant you think your contribution will be, God desires to involve every one of His children in His Kingdom work.**
* *“Commit your works to the LORD and your plans will be established.”* (Proverbs 16:3 NASB)
* **We cannot allow ourselves to get distracted or disengaged in the Lord’s Kingdom work due to those who sit on the sideline.**
* *“Beside them the Tekoites made repairs, but their nobles did not lift a finger to help their supervisors.”* (Nehemiah 3:5)
* *“Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don’t give up.”* (Galatians 6:9)

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Ice Breaker:** What is the most unique thing you have ever experienced from another culture?

**Start thinking:**

* What do we learn about God from Nehemiah 2:1-20?
* What stands out to you in Nehemiah 3 as you read it?
* Why was it important to start the Rebuilding with the Sheep Gate?
* How did Nehemiah and the people deal with those who opposed their work for the Lord?

**Start sharing. Discuss in depth to create openness.**

* How should the Church “matter” in its community?
* How is God teaching you to appreciate and celebrate diversity in His creation of mankind?
* What are you passionate about when it comes to God’s Kingdom work? How can you act on that passion at Renew Church?
* What might God be calling you to be involved in now as we “Rebuilds’ God’s Church influence in this community?
* What is your “Big Takeaway” from this message?

**Pray**

* Share prayer requests and pray for each other.
* Pray for our community to be open to the Gospel.
* Pray for our church, and leadership.
* Pray for our government leaders, and local leaders.
* Pray about anything else the Holy Spirit leads you to pray for.