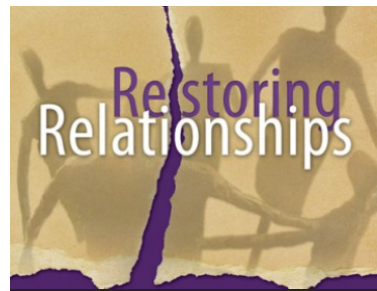


## Conflicts & Restoring Relationships



### **READ:** Nehemiah 5:1-13

About this time some of the men and their

wives raised a cry of protest against their fellow Jews. <sup>2</sup> They were saying, "We have such large families. We need more food to survive."

<sup>3</sup> Others said, "We have mortgaged our fields, vineyards, and homes to get food during the famine."

<sup>4</sup> And others said, "We have had to borrow money on our fields and vineyards to pay our taxes."

<sup>5</sup> We belong to the same family as those who are wealthy, and our children are just like theirs. Yet we must sell our children into slavery just to get enough money to live. We have already sold some of our daughters, and we are helpless to do anything about it, for our fields and vineyards are already mortgaged to others."

<sup>6</sup> When I heard their complaints, I was very angry. <sup>7</sup> After thinking it over, I spoke out against these nobles and officials. I told them, "You are hurting your own relatives by charging interest when they borrow money!" Then I called a public meeting to deal with the problem. <sup>8</sup> At the meeting I said to them, "We are doing all we can to redeem our Jewish relatives who have had to sell themselves to pagan foreigners, but you are selling them back into slavery again. How often must we redeem them?" And they had nothing to say in their defense.

<sup>9</sup> Then I pressed further, "What you are doing is not right! Should you not walk in the fear of our God in order to avoid being mocked by enemy nations?" <sup>10</sup> I myself, as well as my brothers and my workers, have been lending the people money and grain, but now let us stop this business of charging interest.

<sup>11</sup> You must restore their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes to them this very day. And repay the interest you charged when you lent them money, grain, new wine, and olive oil."

<sup>12</sup> They replied, "We will give back everything and demand nothing more from the people. We will do as you say." Then I called the priests and made the nobles and officials swear to do what they had promised.

<sup>13</sup> I shook out the folds of my robe and said, "If you fail to keep your promise, may God shake you like this from your homes and from your property!"

## **REFLECT:** How do conflict help you?

What challenges does the Apostle Paul give us in dealing with conflicts that arise within the church family? (read below)

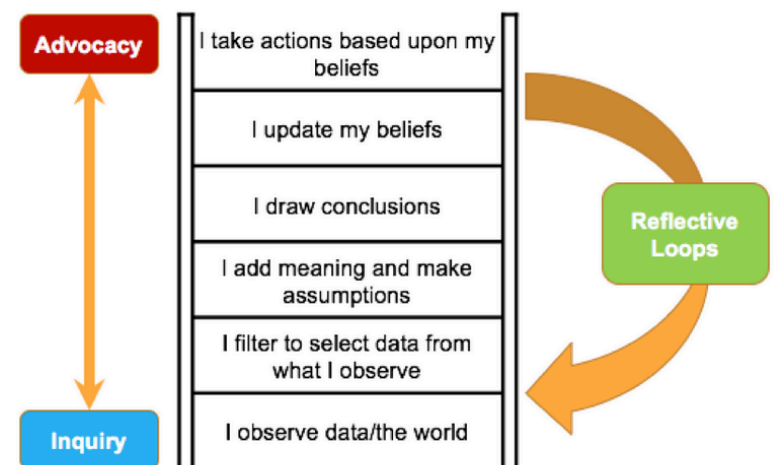
So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders. <sup>29</sup> I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup> Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. <sup>31</sup> Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you.

<sup>32</sup> "And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself. Acts 20:28-32 (NLT)

To manage conflicts and restore relationships we need to...

### **1. Listen and define...**

## **LADDER OF INFERENCE**



To manage conflicts and restore relationships we need to...

## **2. Become**

When I heard their complaints, I was very angry. Nehemiah 5:6

Why was Jesus so angry with his disciples during this time...

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them  
Mark 10:14-16a (NIV)

To manage conflicts and restore relationships we need to...

## **3. Be willing to**

<sup>7</sup> After thinking it over, I spoke out against these nobles and officials. I told them, "You are hurting your own relatives by charging interest when they borrow money!" Then I called a public meeting to deal with the problem. Nehemiah 5:7

To manage conflicts and restore relationships we need to...

## **4. Agree upon a**

<sup>11</sup> You must restore their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes to them this very day. And repay the interest you charged when you lent them money, grain, new wine, and olive oil."

<sup>12</sup> They replied, "We will give back everything and demand nothing more from the people. We will do as you say." Then I called the priests and made the nobles and officials swear to do what they had promised. Nehemiah 5:11-12

## **Respond & Apply: Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide**

Warren Wiersbe said of these verses, *"When the enemy fails in his attacks from the outside, he then begins to attack from within; and one of his favorite weapons is selfishness. If he can get us thinking only about ourselves and what we want, then he will win the victory before we realize that he is even at work."*

Where is the enemy most likely to attack you in your personal life?

Chuck Swindoll stated, *"When God shows his people a particular sin that we are guilty of, He doesn't tell us to take our time dealing with it. No, He says, 'Deal with it now.' When we realize we are doing wrong, now is the time to stop it. Making long range plans to correct a problem allows the sands of time to hone off the raw edges of God's reproof in our lives. We end up tolerating that sin and maybe even protecting it. Such laxity greatly concerns our Lord. A prompt and thorough dealing with wrong in our lives is essential."*

Is God calling you to deal with anything at this moment in your life?

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### **Revive, Rebuild, Restore: Moving Forward with God's Vision**

- January 8, 2023 – More Than Just A Name (Neh. 2:18; 3:1-32)
- January 15 – Overcoming Opposition & Discouragement (Neh. 4)
- January 22 – Restoring Right Relationships (Neh. 5)
- January 29 – Dealing with Distractions (Neh. 6)
- February 5 – Where Do I Fit In? (Neh. 7)

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#### NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values

- 1. We are a community that has a passion to serve others.**
- 2. We are a community that longs for deeper life relationships With God and others.**
- 3. We are passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.**
- 4. We are a people who have a desire to be led by and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.**

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