

BUILDING LIVES **NEHEMIAH 1:1-11, 2:17-18**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

Community Groups are a great way to make sure everyone knows what is going on at New City. Use the bulletin or the [Weekly Roundup](#) to remind folks of the New City goings-on. Some highlights:

:: **New Men's Group** – A new men's group starts this Thursday October 17 at Hyde Park Panera from 6:30-7:30am to read and discuss *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Buy the book and read the first 4 (very short) letters for Thursday.

:: **Women's Gathering** – Sunday October 20, 7pm at Jill Jackson's home. Great chance to meet and hang out with other women at New City. It's also a great way to get plugged in if you're new.

:: **Mazatlan Mission Trip** – New City is taking a vision/mission trip to Mazatlan, Mexico this spring (Mar 31-Apr 5) to work with our partners from Back2Back Ministries. We will be working alongside staff of B2B in orphan care ministry. The approximate cost of the trip is \$1450 (fundraising options are available). If you are even a little interested in hearing more about the trip, come to our first official trip info meeting on Sunday night October 27, 7:30pm at the church office.

ENGAGE (15 MINUTES)

Starter Questions: People are still getting to know each other, so feel free to take some time getting acquainted. Have everyone introduce themselves and then ask:

- Have you ever been on a mission trip before? Where did you go? What did you do? (If you haven't, what is the most interesting trip you've ever been on?)

REFLECTION AND STUDY (30-35 MINUTES)

This week we had a guest speaker: Ashish Puskaron, the Director of Partners India. PI works to train church planters and plant churches in northern India, where less than 1% of people identify as Christians. Ashish spoke from Nehemiah 1-2 where Nehemiah sets out to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and reform the people of God.

1.) If you were in church on Sunday, what stood out to you from Ashish's teaching?

Read Nehemiah 1:1-11 and 2:17-18.

2.) (v.1-4) What news does Nehemiah receive and how does he react?

3.) Nehemiah's heart was broken over the state of things in Jerusalem. What does your heart break for? How can we grow in our burden for the city of Cincinnati?

- 4.) What can we learn from Nehemiah's prayer in verses 5-11? What steps can you take to grow in your prayer life?
- 5.) How do you see God at work in this story? What does this teach us about how God often works?
- 6.) **COMMUNITY:** How does this text help to shape us to live in community?
- 7.) **MISSION:** How does this story prepare us for mission?
- 8.) **APPLICATION:** What truth do you need to believe, or action do you need to take in your walk with God this week?

PRAYER (15 MINUTES)

Now is a good time to start getting to know each other more deeply through smaller group prayer. If time and space permits, break into groups of men and women and share a prayer request and pray for one another. Have someone in each group record the requests and send out a reminder to the group as a whole.