PIVOT TO PEOPLE

Up to this point in the book, Nehemiah had overcome many obstacles: external opposition from international coalition forces, internal social conflicts within the community, and the logistics of rebuilding the walls within two months! His answers to these issues were primarily prayer and dependence on God while maintaining his focus on the immediate work before him.

But aside from the immediate objective, Nehemiah’s main purpose was still something higher—a purpose somewhat obscured from view until now. He was to rebuild not only Jerusalem but the people of Jerusalem. For what is a walled city without people to inhabit it?

Biblical leadership must always be concerned for people. While business, science, and politics focus on the objective leadership tasks at hand with values such as profit, progress, and power, biblical leadership always takes into account the people. We will discover that Nehemiah’s leadership sought restoration of the community and its connection with God.

While the first six chapters of the book focused on the material restoration of the walls, chapters 8 through 13 now pivot to the spiritual restoration of the people.
Write out Nehemiah 7:1–5 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline it, or mind map the chapter.
Week Ten
Nehemiah

inGest

Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

Where is accountability needed in your life? Public accountability? Spiritual accountability to God?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/neh10-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/neh10-4
Review your memorized verse from Nehemiah 7.

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Nehemiah 7?

What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

2 Tim. 2:2
Acts 6:1–7
1 Tim. 1:4
How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Meditate on Nehemiah 7 again and look for Jesus in the passage.

Is Jesus exclusive? Is salvation exclusive?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/neh10-6
Review your memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

As you have studied this week, what personal applications have you been convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/neh10-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Who will take up the work in your position after you?

Which is more difficult: competence or spirituality?

How do you respond to someone who simply won’t stand down from their position to the detriment of the organization?

In what ways have we placed culture, race, or ethnicity above our Lord?

Are you meticulous and watchful with your spiritual life?

Are you watchful of the spiritual lives around you?

How can we better keep our finances and details as ordered as Nehemiah did?

What kinds of threats are around you constantly?