**Introduction:**

**Our Model - Nehemiah**

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<td>“I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13</td>
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<td>Motto</td>
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<td>“I can’t, He never said I could; He can, He always said He would.”</td>
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**Understanding Nehemiah’s difficult circumstances:**

- Jewish History – 70 years in exile for idolatry
- Zerubbabel returns and rebuilds the Temple – 538 BC
- Ezra returns to rebuild the people – 457 BC
- Nehemiah returns to rebuild the wall – 445 BC
- The wall is done . . . Now what?
Six difficult circumstances Nehemiah faced

1. **Security** issues – An unsafe environment

2. **People** issues – Not enough to fill the city

3. **Housing** issues – None available

4. **Financial** issues – Lack of funds for the work

5. **Momentum** issues – Almost 100 years of futility

How did Nehemiah respond to his circumstances?

- He __________________________.  
  Nehemiah 7:1

- He __________________________.  
  Nehemiah 7:2-3

- He __________________________ to God.  
  Nehemiah 7:4-5

- He __________________________ the right questions.  
  Nehemiah 7:6-69

  o Who are we?
  o How did we get here?
  o What do we have, **not** what do we lack?
  o What are we called to do?

- He __________________________ commitment through generosity.  
  Nehemiah 7:70-72
What can we learn from Nehemiah as we face our difficult circumstances?

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1. **The Principle of Perspective:** *Like Nehemiah*, we must not confuse our ________________ (activities and projects) with our “goals” (desired end results).

2. **The Principle of Priority:** *Like Nehemiah*, we must make ________________ our passion.

3. **The Principle of Evaluation:** *Like Nehemiah*, we must make “faithfulness to our ________________” the measure of our success.
Discussion Questions:

1. What is the most difficult circumstance you (or someone you love) is facing?

2. What practical things from Nehemiah’s example might help you/them deal positively with this challenge?

3. Which of the “3 Timeless Principles” most apply to your difficult circumstance?

4. How does God use difficult circumstances to renew our dependency on Him and/or redirect our lives and relationships?