

Life-Giving Community

When Each Person Does Their Part



READ: Nehemiah 11 (various verses)

The leaders of the people were living in Jerusalem, the holy city. A tenth of the people from the other towns of Judah and Benjamin were chosen by sacred lots to live there, too, while the rest stayed where they were. ² And the people commended everyone who volunteered to resettle in Jerusalem. ³ Here is a list of the names of the provincial officials who came to live in Jerusalem. (Most of the people, priests, Levites, Temple servants, and descendants of Solomon's servants continued to live in their own homes in the various towns of Judah, ⁴ but some of the people from Judah and Benjamin resettled in Jerusalem.)

From the tribe of Judah... (list of names)

⁷ From the tribe of Benjamin... (list of names)

¹⁰ From the priests... (list of names)

¹⁵ From the Levites... (list of names)

¹⁹ From the gatekeepers... (list of names)

²⁰ The other priests, Levites, and the rest of the Israelites lived wherever their family inheritance was located in any of the towns of Judah. ²¹ The Temple servants, however, whose leaders were Ziha and Gishpa, all lived on the hill of Ophel. ²² The chief officer of the Levites in Jerusalem was Uzzi son of Bani, son of Hashabiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Mica, a descendant of Asaph, whose family served as singers at God's Temple. ²³ Their daily responsibilities were carried out according to the terms of a royal command. ²⁴ Pethahiah son of Meshezabel, a descendant of Zerach son of Judah, was the royal adviser in all matters of public administration.

²⁵ As for the surrounding villages with their open fields, some of the people of Judah lived in... (list of various places) ³⁶ Some of the Levites who lived in Judah were sent to live with the tribe of Benjamin.

REFLECT: Where is God calling you to invest yourself and join Him in His work?

How do you discern out WHAT and WHERE God is asking you to join Him in His work?

Why was the Old Testament Pattern of "casting lots" so important to the people of that time?

How does having the Word of God and the Holy Spirit help us to know and follow Jesus today in creating the kind of community of people he is longing for?

³ By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. ⁴ And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. ² Peter 1:3-4

First Step: We help create a life-giving community when...

You are willing to move _____

The key component for the people of Nehemiah's day was refocusing the function of their individualistic lives into one that created genuine community where everyone had a part.

Can you say, "Lord, I'm willing to do whatever you want and to go wherever you want. Just lead me where you want me most."

What relevance does the current "church" have in today's culture?

*"Church isn't the sort of thing you can go to.
You can be the church, you can become the church,
you can even do church, but you can't go to church.
One way of saying it, is that church is the sort of thing
that you become part of at the cost of your life.*

*You're the church whenever you're with other Christians in such a way that
you depend on each other enough that to do it you have to die to yourself.
In that situation and almost only in that situation, can you love each other,
serve each other, live in unity, and speak the truth to each other in love.
This happens when the people stop serving themselves
and begin pouring themselves out for the others, for the church."*

Being Church: Reflections on How to Live as the People of
God, John Alexander

**In what ways have you moved out of your
comfort zone for the sake of the kingdom?**



Second Step: We help create a life-giving community when...

You are willing for God to truly _____

*"God has set apart His people from before the foundation of the world to be
His chosen and peculiar inheritance. We are sanctified in Christ Jesus by the
Holy Spirit when he subdues our corruptions, imparts to us grace, and leads
us onward in the divine walk and life of faith. Christian men are not to be
used for anything but God. They are a set-apart people; they are vessels of
mercy, they are not for the devil's use, not for their own use, not for the
world's use, but for their Master's use. He has made them on purpose to be
used entirely, solely and wholly for Him. O Christian people, be holy, for
Christ is holy. Do not pollute that holy Name wherewith you are named. Let
your family life, your personal life, your business life, be as holy as Christ
your Lord would have it to be." Charles Spurgeon*

Respond & Apply: Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide

Take time this week to explore the SHAPE assessment.

Five Ways God Has Shaped You:

- S** - Spiritual Gifts What has God supernaturally gifted me to do?
- H** - Heart What do I have a passion for and love to do?
- A** - Abilities What natural talents and skills do I have?
- P** - Personality Where does my personality best suit me to serve?
- E** - Experiences What spiritual experiences have I had?
 - ... What painful experiences have I had?
 - ... What educational experiences have I had?
 - ... What ministry experiences have I had?

*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.
Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it
on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.
In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your
good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16*

We are excited to have all three Covenant Churches
come together to celebrate two Holy Week events!
We will be meeting at Rochester Covenant Church:
4950 31st Ave. NW

Maunder Thursday Service – April 6, 6:30 pm
Good Friday Service – April 7, 6:30 pm



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.**

FIND OUT MORE... newdaycov.org
(Online giving: <http://www.newdaycov.org/give>)