**Let’s rebuild 5 – Nehemiah 5 Leader’s Notes**

**HOOK**

**1. What’s something that often makes you angry?**

**2. What’s the hardest financial crisis that you, or your family, have faced?**

**LOOK at the BOOK Read Neh. 5:1-5.**

**3. What were the causes of the financial crisis during the time of Nehemiah?**  (Famine, Price inflation, high taxes, high interest rates, crushing debt, slavery)

**4. What was Nehemiah’s reaction? (5:6) Why did Nehemiah get angry?**  (Because God’s laws were being violated, the poor were being exploited, and the construction of the wall was being jeopardized.)

**5. Read Ephesians 4:26 and 4:31. How can anger be righteous and something we need to get rid of at the same time?** (Anger is usually an emotional response to hurt, against ourselves or someone else. Anger as an emotion isn’t wrong; it just is. We need to reflect on why we’re angry and let the anger motivate godly action. The anger that we’re to get rid of is accompanied by bitterness, rage (out of control anger), brawling, slander and malice (desire to hurt back).

**6. Read 5:7-12. What three things does Nehemiah ask of his people?**

1. Give back fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses that was claimed as collateral in foreclosure

2. Stop the usury – charging high interest - Don’t exploit the poor; redeem them, help them out!

3 Don’t sell your own people into slavery.

**7. How does Nehemiah demonstrate an understanding of human nature by implementing a system of accountability? Read 5:12-13.**

(We often make promises but don’t keep them. He had the nobles take an oath in the presence of the priests and the other officers of the city, so their promise wasn’t only between them and their neighbors, but between them and the Lord).

**8. Read Nehemiah 5:14-19. In what ways does Nehemiah set a godly example as a leader of integrity committed to justice for the poor?**  (Bought Jewish people out of slavery, never demanded his rightful food allotment, didn’t take bribes, lent the poor money and grain, didn’t acquire land)

**9. What do you think was the primary motivation for Nehemiah’s financial integrity? A. National pride; B. Reverence for God; or C. Compassion for the poor?** (D – all of the above could be correct. A – 5:9; B – 5:15; C – 5:10,19.)

**10. Read Psalm 146:7,8. How does compassion for the poor align our life with God’s priorities?**

**TOOK**

**What problem or challenge do you need to courageously confront? What will happen if you don’t do anything about it? (**Every problem that you ignore will only go underground, grow deeper roots, and bear bitter fruits).

**What promise have you made that you’d benefit from greater accountability for?**

**How does our financial situations impact our ability to invest in Kingdom projects?**

**How can our church grow in compassion for the poor?** (Sponsor a Compassion child, give or volunteer at the Food Bank, Dream Center or Mustard Seed, offer help to a single parent, etc)