

# NEHEMIAH

## Chapter 5 - 3/17/19

### OVERVIEW

Have you ever noticed we hurt, and are hurt by those closest to us? Somewhere along the line community can get complicated. Small offenses begin to pile up undealt with because we are busy, tired, or complacent – and suddenly we are keeping score. How do we be the church when life gets real? How do we pursue unity when we are holding our scorecards so tightly? This week we'll look at Nehemiah Chapter 5, and the importance of owning unity in community.

Scriptures: Nehemiah 4:1-5 (NLT), Nehemiah 5:6-7 (ESV), Matthew 18:15 (NASB), Nehemiah 5:8-12 (ESV), Ephesians 4:15 (NIV)

### APPLICATION

1. Think about how you grew up...How did your family handle conflict (heated argument, the silent treatment, forgiveness, open war, etc.)? Explain how.
2. This week we ask the question, "Have you ever noticed we hurt, and are hurt by, those closest to us?" What does this mean for sharing community with other people, especially as we get closer to one another?
3. This section of scripture describes Nehemiah becoming angry at how the Jews were treating each other—some were unfairly oppressing others. Yet, his anger led him to work toward reconciliation with his enemies. What is the difference between his positive anger and, perhaps, anger you've had that didn't result in reconciliation?
4. Woody gave us steps to take to begin the process of reconciliation: 1) If there is conflict; 2) You; 3) Go; 4) To the Person; 5) In Private; 6) And discuss the problem; 7) For the purposes of reconciliation. Which step is the toughest for you?
5. We took communion this week, and the Bible makes it clear that resolving issues with one another comes before having communion with God. If you want a close relationship with God, what step(s) do you need to take to make sure you are reconciled to other people (that might mean a co-worker, family member, friend, or person who did the wrong thing, etc)?
6. HOMEWORK: Continue reading in Nehemiah.