

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

10 – 14 September 2007

NEHEMIAH: MAN OF PRAYER & ACTION! **#8 VALUE OF COMMITMENT**

INTRODUCTION

- How did you feel when you signed your military contract, and/or recited your commissioning oath (or similar solemn verbal/written commitment)?

TRAINING OBJECTIVE To discuss the value of commitment to God in the life of a believer.

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Nehemiah 9:38- 10:29

- Who was making the agreement (signed with their name)?
- What is the significance of listing specific names?
- What was the meaning of a curse or oath? (v. 29) Lev 24:16
- Why include such a serious, solemn and binding phrase?

Read Nehemiah 10:30-39

- What did the Israelites promise to do? (vs 30, 31, 39)
- What had neglecting the house of God taught them? (Haggai 1:4-11, Neh 13:11)
- Why is it so difficult for some people today to make/keep commitments? What are some specific examples?
- What can help Christians make/keep important commitments to God?
- How can Christians keep this from becoming legalistic?
- In his book “*Hand Me Another Brick*”, Chuck Swindoll notes three important lessons in Nehemiah 10: 1) Serious thought precedes any significant change, 2) Written plans confirm right priorities, and 3) Where the world is concerned, distinction and conformity pull us in opposite directions. How have you seen these demonstrated?
- What other life lessons did you glean from Nehemiah 10?

APPLICATION

- What changes need to be made in your personal commitment to your spiritual life?

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

*They knew the responsibility of their station, and the fate which awaited themselves, if not their country, should their experiment fail. They came, therefore, to the question of a declaration of independence, like men who had counted the cost; prepared to rejoice, without any unholy triumph, should God smile upon the transaction; prepared also, if defeat should follow, to lead in the way to martyrdom. A signature to the declaration of independence, without reference to general views, was, to each individual, a personal consideration of the most momentous import. **It would be regarded in England as treason, and expose any man to the halter or the block.** The only signature, which exhibits indications of a trembling hand, is that of Stephen Hopkins, who had been afflicted with the palsy. In this work of treason, John Hancock led the way, as president of the congress, and by the force with which he wrote, he seems to have determined that his name should never be erased.*