

Keeping it Real

What makes family relationships complicated?

Read Nehemiah 5:1 - 6:19.

1. What created the internal strife among the Jews?
 - A. The richer Jews were exploiting the poor.
 - B. They repossessed each other's property.
 - C. There was no food to eat.
 - D. They enslaved their own people (5:1-5).
 - E. Nehemiah smacked a beloved leader.
 - F. The king showed favoritism.
 - G. Nehemiah was too lazy.
 - H. The interest on loans was too high.
 - I. The people were naturally angry.
 - J. Other.

2. How did Nehemiah solve the issues?
 - A. He gave everyone large portions of land.
 - B. He reprimanded wealthy Jews at a public hearing (5:6-11).
 - C. He just allowed them to rip each other.
 - D. The problems did not go away.
 - E. He convinced the wealthy to repay the poor (5:12).
 - F. He burned the property of the wealthy.
 - G. The people saw his anger and repented.
 - H. Other.

3. What type of leadership did Nehemiah model?
 - A. He was too angry and aggressive.
 - B. He donated his governor's salary for 12 years (5:14-16).
 - C. He fed 150 Jewish officials at his own expense (5:17-19).
 - D. He sang and danced at wild parties.
 - E. He exercised regularly for all to see.
 - F. There was little attention to details; he was terrible.
 - G. He showed all that leaders should not do.
 - H. His leadership gave confidence to the nation.
 - I. Other.

4. What role did Sanballat and Geshem play in Nehemiah's life?
 - A. They were really good friends of Nehemiah.
 - B. These men fed him every day.
 - C. They taught him how to play golf.
 - D. They tried to distract Nehemiah from building the wall.
 - E. They tried to harm Nehemiah four times (6:1-4).
 - F. They convinced Nehemiah to become a governor.
 - G. They were archenemies of Nehemiah.
 - H. Other.

5. What plot did Sanballat and Geshem use to try and sway Nehemiah?
 - A. They attempted to sabotage his vehicle.
 - B. By spreading slander to the king about Nehemiah and a Jewish revolt (6:5-9).
 - C. They ran a campaign about Nehemiah trying to kill the king.
 - D. There was no plot to sway Nehemiah from his work.
 - E. They tried to use a false prophet to persuade Nehemiah (6:10-14).
 - F. They got Nehemiah to secretly confess that he was against God.
 - G. They spied on him stealing and showed the evidence to the king.
 - H. Other.

6. What were the reactions of Israel's enemies to the finished wall?
 - A. They taunted Israel because it took so long to build.
 - B. They were afraid of God's presence helping Israel.
 - C. They contracted Tobiah to intimidate Nehemiah.
 - D. They all worshiped God immediately.
 - E. These nations sold their possessions to defeat Israel.
 - F. Israel's enemies put a cash bounty on Nehemiah's head.
 - G. They were amazed that the wall was done without cost.
 - H. The women of the enemy nations all married Israelite men.
 - I. Other.

7. What are your thoughts and feelings on economic injustice?

8. What kinds of opposition have you faced when following God?