



HEART FOR THE HOUSE
Part 10: #OURCITY
Sermon Small Group Questions
Speaker: Pastor Raymond Beaty

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

Actions speak louder than words. We love our city & will take responsibility for it. #OURCITY

[Jeremiah 22.1-5, ESV]

Thus says the Lord : "Go down to the house of the king of Judah and speak there this word, and say, 'Hear the word of the Lord, O king of Judah, who sits on the throne of David, you, and your servants, and your people who enter these gates. Thus says the Lord : Do justice and righteousness, and

deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place. For if you will indeed obey this word, then there shall enter the gates of this house kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their servants and their people. But if you will not obey these words, I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that this house shall become a desolation.

[Jeremiah 29.7-11, ESV]

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord. “For thus says the Lord : When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

If we are going to impact every city where we live, we are going to need a plan!

[Nehemiah 1.1-8, ESV]

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.” As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. And I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your

servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples...

Don't confuse casting the vision for asking for help.

[Nehemiah 2.17-18, ESV]

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

6 Steps to Take Responsibility for Your City

- 1. Fast and Pray [1.1-4]**
- 2. Ask for Help [1.4-8]**
- 3. Inspect and Plan [2.11-15]**
- 4. Cast the Vision [2.17-18]**
- 5. Work and Fight [3.1a, 3.12, 4.16-23]**
- 6. Intervene for People [5.1-6]**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Describe a time when someone's "actions spoke louder than words" in your life.**
- 2. What has been your experience with fasting and praying? What is one specific step that you could take toward growing in that?**
- 3. When have you had a conflict between God's plan and your plan, even when you had good intentions? How was that resolved?**
- 4. What are some of the needs in your city, and what would it look like for your community to "rebuild your city?"**