

June 5, 2011

Praise youth

Taste the Truth

Dear parents,

We've wrapped up our three-week small group series focused on Nehemiah. I want our teenagers to be familiar with great heroes from the Bible, like we see in Nehemiah, in order to discover the truths and lessons within these stories that we can live out today. That's been our focus throughout this series: obeying God and doing our part to tackle the problems of our world and meet people's needs.

This week, we challenged our teenagers to lead the way by being prepared, dividing duties, and overcoming obstacles. In the middle of the rebuilding project, the citizens of Jerusalem rediscovered what it meant to honor God and live for God. The process of restoration didn't stop with the city walls; God worked in the lives of the people, too. As our young people address the problems and needs of their world, we want them to remember that ultimately God is the one who restores and renews and rebuilds broken lives.

I'd encourage you to talk with your teenager this week about this final lesson and the entire series. Find out how your student is putting these truths and teachings into practice. Here are some questions you could include in your conversation:

- Sometimes we do things "by the seat of our pants" instead of planning a strategy—what are the pro's and con's of doing that?
- When have mockery or criticism distracted you spiritually? How did you overcome those obstacles, or how did those challenges knock you off track?
- Through this entire process of leading the way, what are practical ways God offers his help?

I'm praying for God to continue working in the lives of our teenagers to make a difference in this world. Have an awesome day!

iHOPE
아이홈

NEHEMIAH
Week 3: Leading the Way

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14 (NLT)

¹²I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

LEADING THE WAY

1. Be prepared

2. Divide duties

3. Overcome opposition

FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]

At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm (Nehemiah 4:6 NLT).