


# HILLSIDE STUDENTS

## Nehemiah | Week 2


### CONNECT

 Set out snacks! Add new students to the groups app! Take Attendance!

 Play **Spoons!** A regular card game, with a twist that your group will love! You will need a deck of cards and a group of objects one less than the number of players (if 5 are playing, have 4 things). For instructions on how to play, check out this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8FZI5leLb4>

### WATCH

 **Set up Discussion:** Have you ever been in a group project where people don't agree with each other or get along? It can be frustrating when more time is spent arguing about things, than actually doing anything. When we're on the same team but caught up in conflict, it's easy to lose sight of our goal. Let's take a look at how Nehemiah handled this type of situation.

 **Pre-Video Question:** Have your group answer one or both questions below!

- If you had to wear a mascot costume for the rest of your life, which mascot would you choose?
- Would you rather drink ketchup as a smoothie or eat it as a soup?

Split up into smaller groups and navigate the discussion below:

### READ + DISCUSS

- What stood out to you from the video?
- **Read Nehemiah 5:9.** What does it mean to fear God?
- How does this lead us to love others?
- **Read 1 Corinthians 12:25-26.** How was 'division within' a problem for Nehemiah?
- Have you ever experienced division with the people you're close to?
- **Read Matthew 12:48-50 and then read Hebrews 12:14.** Who are we called to live at peace with?
- What does it look like "make every effort"?
- What does it mean to be holy? (To be holy means to be *set-apart!*)
- **Read Romans 12:10.** What is one way you can put what we've talked about into practice this week? Have one person keep you accountable and encourage you to maintain this practice throughout the week!

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Conflict with those around us, especially those closest to us, is inevitable, but we are called to be peacemakers. Nehemiah's point in this passage - and the point we should preach to ourselves in times of tension - is that we are to fear the Lord and love others. It's the two ideas that Jesus presents in the Great Commandment.

When we understand who God is, we have a reverence, respect, and love for Him and His commands - this is what it means to fear the Lord. This fear of God is what motivates our actions, rather than a desire to gain status with others or the need to always be "right." When we love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and strength, we don't get lost in arguing. Instead we look to find unity and peace with the believers around us.

This week, talk through what it looks like to live a life loving God, and through that, loving others. Conflict is a topic that makes everyone a little uncomfortable, but it's important that we address tensions as they occur without allowing our thoughts to overwhelm our heads.

Leaders, encourage students to use their words and actions wisely as we seek to approach conflict in a way that models Christ and shows His light to the world around us!

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**Nehemiah 5:9** *"So I continued, "What you are doing is not right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?"*

**1 Corinthians 12:25-26** *"<sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."*

**Matthew 12:48-50** *"<sup>48</sup> He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?"<sup>49</sup> Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."*

**Hebrews 12:14** *"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."*

**Romans 12:10** *"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."*