

go first.

MAY 28 & 29
WEEK 1

Matt Randall

A leader I admire: _____

You are a leader, because you have influence.

"Leadership is influence – nothing more, nothing less." John Maxwell

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-**seasoning** that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage." *Matthew 5:13*

Leadership: Using your **influence** to rally others to achieve something you can't do alone.

I will start where I am, and I will go first.

In those days, I was the king's cup-bearer. *Nehemiah 1:11*

"You don't lead by your title; you lead by your influence." Jim Porteau

1. Leadership begins with a burden.

When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. *Nehemiah 1:4*

"We tend to use prayer as a last resort, but God wants it to be our first line of defense. We pray when there's nothing else we can do, but God wants us to pray before we do anything at all." Oswald Chambers

But I replied, "Long live the King! **How can I not be sad?** For the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire." *Nehemiah 2:3*

2. Leaders take it personally.

"...send **me** to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried." *Nehemiah 2:5*

They replied at once, "**Yes, let's rebuild the wall!**" So they began the good work. *Nehemiah 2:18*

"If all else fails, channel your inner middle school girl in pursuit of an iPhone." Andy Stanley

3. Leaders always act with love.

If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. *1 Corinthians 13:3*

"We have to take back love from the Hallmark Cards and the Lifetime Network. Love should not be hijacked by the romantics... Love is selfless! Love is 'you before me' thinking." James MacDonald

Nehemiah and the people of Jerusalem rebuilt 2.5 miles of wall in 52 days.

My burden: _____

Resources on Leadership

Devotional: *My Utmost for His Highest* – Oswald Chambers

Podcast: Andy Stanley's Leadership Podcast

Music: "When We Come Alive" – Switchfoot

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY John 18:1-27	MONDAY John 18:28-19:16	TUESDAY John 19:17-42
this week	may 29	may 30	may 31
WEDNESDAY John 20:1-31	THURSDAY John 21:1-25	FRIDAY Acts 1:1-26	SATURDAY Acts 2:1-42
june 1	june 2	june 3	june 4
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE Matthew 5:13			

go first.



For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Check-in

Last Week's Action Step

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

Introduction

Leadership guru John Maxwell said, "Leadership is influence – nothing more, nothing less." We all have influence; therefore, we are all leaders. For this series we will look at ways to use our influence to rally others to achieve the things we cannot do alone. In the story of Nehemiah we see that although he didn't hold a position of authority, he was still able to lead others to do remarkable things.

Discussion Questions

1. Who is the leader/influencer you admire most? Why?

In what specific areas or with which groups of people do you have influence? Read Nehemiah 1:1-4. What is happening in these specific areas, or with these groups of people, that breaks your heart? Why?

2. Nehemiah's broken heart moved him to action. Read Nehemiah 2:1-5. In the past, where have you seen a need and took it personally enough to be moved to action? What did you do? What was the result?

Where have you failed to take it personally and missed an opportunity? How does that make you feel? Why?

3. Acting on a burden in the wrong manner and with the wrong motive can be harmful to the cause. When have you seen or experienced this for yourself?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:3. Pastor James MacDonald wrote, "Love is 'you before me' thinking." How does "you before me thinking" change everything?

Small Group Questions Continued

4. Nehemiah was burdened by the needs of his people and used his influence to get things done. What steps will you take this week to tackle your burden? What will you do to use your influence to rally others to achieve what you cannot do alone?

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I'm praying for:

Outreach: Groups in Action

OUR CHURCH

Summer volunteers are needed in the Children's Ministry. This short-term commitment will impact the lives of families who attend our weekend worship services. Learn more by contacting Courtney Salyers at csalyers@eclife.org.

OUR COMMUNITY

The Refuge needs shampoo for their clients. Consider collecting through your family, friends and coworkers, and bringing them to group with you next week (take a picture and post it to the Small Groups Facebook page). One group member can deliver it to The Refuge (317-889-7338).

OUR WORLD

The Colombia mission team is collecting quality garage sale items to raise money for the upcoming trip. Consider donating any clothing, household items, yard or household tools, toys, and furniture to help this cause. Drop off your items June 6-8. Contact Kerry Jones for the address and any questions at kjones@eclife.org.