



Sermon-based reflections connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, in a small group or independently. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life.

Message Info: People Problems - Boundaries, Part 2, 9/3/23 - We know boundaries are important. God set them and Jesus modeled them. But establishing them is just the beginning. Boundary breakers still test our limits sometimes, and opposition gets stronger the closer we get to breakthrough. Let's look at how we can be prepared to protect our carefully layed boundaries. (*Passages: Nehemiah 6:1-14, Galatians 6:4-5, Nehemiah 1:3-4*)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

Is it easy to keep boundaries? Have you ever experienced pushback? How do you handle distractions or pressure to budge? Is there a right way to protect the boundaries you establish? Where does never saying "no" lead?

Read Nehemiah 6:1-14. What stands out to you in this passage. Why?

Nehemiah was on his toes. Wise and determined, he responded clearly to opposition, and established, declared, and protected his boundaries faithfully. He used what God gave him to carryout his purpose. Read Nehemiah 1:3-4. What did Nehemiah do specifically that would assert his undeterred progress? What does it say about his character?

We are called to care for one another, but also to be self-aware (Galatians 6:4-5). No one can pour out constantly, saying yes to every request for help, and never be filled themselves; that kind of living is not sustainable. To know our goals, protect our purposes, and navigate challenges, we need to:

1. **Seek God.** Our first step should be truly seeking God. Spend serious time in prayer.
2. **Know your mission.** We all have one. What has God called *you* to do? To be to those around you?
3. **Be clear on your purpose.** Don't allow distractions to divert your attention. How has God gifted you?
4. **Plan intentionally.** Have a plan to use your gifts well, even in every-day small spaces. Write down your priorities...*and* act on them! What relationships has God placed you in?

Weekly Challenge: Spend extra time at church, before or after service, and talk with someone you haven't before.