

EQUIPPING WITH A COUNTER-CULTURAL MINDSET

Equipping the Next Generation, pt. 1 | Nehemiah 11:1-36

By Rod MacIlvaine

Introduction: Nehemiah 11 and 12 appear, at first glance, to be relatively insignificant in the plan of the book. They contain lists of names that seem very foreign. (Few of us will name our children Zichri or Hassenuah). If you read the chapters casually, you might assume Nehemiah is winding down his book in a rather lackluster fashion. The chapters seem more like appendices than climax. But if you read the book from the vantage point of the 4th century BC, it's clear that Nehemiah is modeling something that's crucial to spiritual leadership. He's demonstrating that individual people matter to God. No one is insignificant, and the next generation needs to be inspired by the lives of ordinary people in this generation. As we explore Nehemiah 11 and 12, we are going to examine them using our current theme at Grace Community Church: Equipping the Next Generation. God has called us as a church to a ministry of transformation (2 Cor. 3:18). In this season, he's specifically called us to transform the next generation through patient, *loving* equipping. In Nehemiah 11-12 we see two essential components of equipping the next generation. The first component is empowering kids to embrace a counter-cultural mindset. In this mindset, we're fully present in the world, but we don't derive our values from the world. Nehemiah does this in a particularly creative way as a leader.

1. **The Chapter**

Nehemiah 11:1-36

2. **Principles** – three ways to embrace our exilic status, yet bring goodness into the world

Nehemiah 11:1-36

3. Idea

4. Takeaways