


All Things New: A Light So Lovely

Nehemiah 5:14–6:16

Ray Cortese, March 16 & 17, 2019

Step 1: All Things New

Share your overall experience of “All Things New” with your small group. What was encouraging? What was challenging? What do you think you will remember most from the last five weeks? What was it like bringing your commitment card forward in the service?

 Read the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: The Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Discuss the following quote by Madeline L’Engle: “We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.”
- 2 What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

A LIGHT SO LOVELY: SELF-DENYING

- 3 How did Nehemiah demonstrate self-denial? Read Philippians 2:3-5. How should Christians’ lives look different from a world that is obsessed with self-care?

A LIGHT SO LOVELY: DETERMINED

- 4 What resistance/opposition did Nehemiah face while building the wall?
- 5 Have you ever faced discouragement, hardship, or critique that required courage and determination on your part in order to keep going? Read 2 Timothy 4:16. Have you ever felt “the Lord standing by your side and strengthening you”?

A LIGHT SO LOVELY: DEPENDENT

- 6 What enabled the Israelites to finish building the wall in only fifty-two days?
- 7 Ray said, “God will ask you to do things that you cannot do, so that you have to depend on his strength and provision.” What have been those things for you?
- 8 What did Ray mean when he said, “All Things New is about getting you to bet everything on the winning horse”? What did you take away from the clip from the Passion of the Christ?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?