

## OVERCOMING THE IDIOTS IN YOUR LIFE

### BIG IDEA

The ancient Greek word “*idios*” means oneself. An *idiot* is a person who only ever thinks of him/herself. What can you do when a difficult person becomes a part of your life? I will respond and behave in a way God can reward.

Our response to the difficult people in our lives tells the story of who we are in Christ...our action should reflect Christ as we interact with the *idiots*, allowing Him to judge. (See I Peter 2:21-23)

### SCRIPTURE

Read aloud Nehemiah 2:19 and 13:1, 13:4-9, 13:14, and 13:22b.

### OPENER

We should live life for an audience of One. What are some of the other audiences you tend to seek approval from?

### QUESTIONS

1. When you encountered difficult people who told untruths about your motives or spoke ill of your character, how did you respond? If you had a do over, what lesson from Nehemiah would you apply?
2. If we are honest, we often behave as idiots! Share a time when you realized you were being an idiot, what steps did you take to reconcile with the Lord and others?
3. Day to day are you always in control of your emotions, time, energy and agenda? If you answered no, what causes you to lose control?
4. Why can a thoughtful scripturally based question be more effective than reciting a Bible fact to an idiot?
5. Read 1 Peter 2:21-23 and Romans 12:21. As a Christian, what changes do you need to make so you can be more like Nehemiah? How will you respond should difficult people react negatively to your stand for Christ?
6. As Nehemiah prayed in these verses: 4:4&5, 5:19, 6:14, 13:14, 22 & 31 what was his expectation of God? How can we make this our expectation for God this week?
7. Eliashib, the priest compromised God’s law based on his relationship with Tobiah. Share situations in which, Christians might compromise their faith based on their relationships.

8. Discuss how Nehemiah dealt with the idiots, both foreigners and God's people who compromised God's law.

### TAKEAWAY

1. Expect to encounter idiots.
2. Don't try to fix them.
3. Refuse to let them control you.
4. See God as bigger and trust Him to judge. Remember He is the God of heaven!
5. Live for God and His reward.

### REFERENCES

- Nehemiah 2:19 and 13:1, 13:4-9, 13:14, & 13:22b
- Deuteronomy 23:3-5
- Nehemiah 2:10 & 4:3, 4:7 & 8, 4:11, 4:15 & 6:1-9, 6:19
- Nehemiah 13:7-9
- Proverbs 26:11
- Nehemiah 4:4-5 & 6:14
- Nehemiah 5:19 & 13:14, 22 & 31
- I Peter 2:21-23
- Isaiah 53:7
- Romans 12:21
- Hebrews 11:6
- Hebrews 12:3
- I Peter 3:9
- Colossians 4:5 & 6
- Matthew 5:11 & 12
- Matthew 10:14 & 16