1. Taking advantage of those in need
   a) Nehemiah 5:1-5 What crisis were the returned Jewish exiles experiencing as a result of a famine in the land?
   b) Which king was taxing the people? (350 talents of silver each year)
   c) How were the local nobles and rulers making the hardship of the people even worse? Nehemiah 5:7
   d) What counsel was given through Moses about charging interest on loans? Exodus 22:25-27; Leviticus 25:35-37; Deuteronomy 23:19-20
   e) Why is it so common to see people exploiting others in time of need?
   f) Sometimes people are tempted to exploit others in legal ways. According to Jesus, what two great commandments should guide all of our actions? Matthew 22:37-39
   g) What appeal would Jesus give to people who are taking advantage of the poor in their midst?

2. Nehemiah’s response and appeal
   a) Nehemiah 5:6-9 How did Nehemiah react to those who were taking advantage of poor in their midst?
   b) Nehemiah 5:10b-11 What solution did Nehemiah propose?
   c) Nehemiah 5:12a How did the nobles and rulers respond?
   d) Why did Nehemiah require these nobles and rulers to make an oath before the priests that they would keep the promise they had made? Nehemiah 5:12b (see also Numbers 30:2; Deuteronomy 23:21-23; Ecclesiastes 5:4-5)
   e) What counsel did Jesus give regarding the practice of making oaths? Matthew 5:33-37
   f) Why was there such a compliant response from the nobles and rulers, with no apparent resistance to Nehemiah’s appeal?

3. Nehemiah’s example
   a) Nehemiah 5:10 Nehemiah admitted he was part of the problem. Was he? (see Daniel 9:4-6)
   b) Nehemiah 5:14-19 What else did Nehemiah do to care for those in need?
   c) Why did Nehemiah manifest such a generous spirit?
   d) Why is our personal example so important? Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 11:1
   e) Share a time when you witnessed someone caring in a sacrificial way for those in need.
   f) When did God give you an opportunity to care for someone in need? How did that experience impact your life?