

Connect Group Discussion Guide *Series: Rebuild for Revival*

Week 13 – Characteristics of a Minister

DISCUSSION STARTER: Ask everyone how their week was and for them to share anything God has laid on their heart or spoke to them in the message.

DISCUSSION:

1. We read **Proverbs 4:20-23** that we should guard our hearts. What does it mean to guard our hearts, why is it important, and how do verses 20-22 teach us to do that?
2. In Nehemiah 12:30, we read that the priests and Levites first purified themselves before they went to the people. Point #1 "A Pure Heart" discussed the idea that our hearts should be pure. Read **Matthew 23:25-26** and discuss the idea of cleaning the inside before the outside. Does this mean you ignore the outside while dealing with the inside?
3. In **Mark 7:21-23** we see that our heart births sin. How do we deal with our hearts if the things that defile us are coming from within us? How do we deal with the iniquity rather than the outward showing so that the DESIRE to sin goes away?
4. Point 2, as we see in **Nehemiah 12:31-42**, is "A Worshipful Heart". What does it mean to worship God in spirit and truth (**John 4:23-24**)? Read **Romans 6:13** and discuss. How does one look and act and respond to things that has the quality of a "worshipful" heart?
5. Point 3, as we read in **Nehemiah 12:34**, is "A Joyful Heart". Do you find yourself claiming discouragement and aggravation rather than joy and praise? Read **Proverbs 17:22** and talk about the healing agent in joy for you and how it relates to people in your sphere of influence.
6. Does having a joyful heart mean you ignore when you are feeling down? Or does it change the way we respond when we are feeling down? Discuss "reponse" and how **Ephesians 1:4** helps us.
7. Point 4, as we read in **Nehemiah 12:44-47**, is "A Giving Heart". Talk about how we should have a heart to give and how this extends beyond tithes and offerings of money. Read **2 Corinthians 9:5-8** and discuss the idea of living in a posture of giving.
8. Read **Matthew 6:19-21** and talk about storing up treasures in heaven vs treasure on earth. How does this affect our heart?

TALK: When we begin to be more intentional about GUARDING OUR HEART with the 4 characteristics of how our hearts should look, we will begin to be identified as people of God rather than people of the world, and that is how people will come to know how great our God is!

PRAY: Take Prayer Requests and post them to the Connect Group FB Wall with the number of people that came to group and write down the names as well.