



Life Application Notes

Sunday – 11th(West End)/18th (Lordshill/Central)
February 2018

Speaker: Chris Kilby **Scripture:** Nehemiah 13

Series/Title: 'For Southampton: Restored to Fight'

Introduction:

Share out the reading of chapter 13 of Nehemiah

Unfortunately, in Nehemiah's absence (he went back to Susa for a few years), things had gone downhill in Jerusalem and Judea. Spend a few minutes looking in the text to see if you can pick out some of the things that had gone wrong.

Questions for discussion:

- Sometimes we can all veer off course, and spiritually lose our way.
 - Ask each person to write down one or two things that can lead us to drift from God's purpose. Share those round the room.
 - Now ask everyone to write down one or two things that we can do to get ourselves back into spiritual health. Share those.

Now think about church life for a bit:

- As a group, talk about some of the ways that churches can 'go off course'. What kind of things happen to make a church or a movement lose its way?
- What kind of things can we all do to avoid the decline that Jerusalem faced?

We know that building a multi-site church for Southampton is spiritual warfare. Satan hates what we are doing, and we must keep aware of his schemes. Since launching as three sites we have had several unusual challenges such as ill health, a car being stolen, a huge family challenge – and that's just amongst the leaders! We have also received a very specific prophetic encouragement to pray for God's protection against such schemes, and for us to stand strong.

So – we want to ask you to stand with us, and to pray for the church. Use whatever time you have left to pray for God's protection over our people and leaders, for the advance of the gospel, for the strength and health of the church and for the advance of God's kingdom.

Go for it – pray your best prayers!