

## Homegroup Questions – Nehemiah 6: No Room for Rumour

### Icebreaker:

Play a game of Broken Telephone (formerly known as Chinese Whispers). Ask one person to say a silly phrase to their neighbour and pass it the whisper around the group. See if the message changes by the end!

### OR

Is there a space in your home where you simply don't have any more room? Why? What's in there?

*Today we're going to be thinking about the idea that there is no room for rumour in our lives as Christians.*

PRAY

### Study

Read Nehemiah 6

- Are we exposed to rumour or speculation in our lives today in any way?
- What impact do you think it can have on us?
- Look at verses 1 and 9. Why did Sanballat, Tobiah and Gesham start their rumours? (enemies, saw a weakness and wanted to exploit it for their own gain, to frighten them)
- What do you think they were seeking to gain from doing this? (have power)
- Why do you think people seek to have power over others? (a sense of control, self-confidence, ego boost, they themselves are fearful for their own lives or families)
- Sanballat, Tobiah and Gesham's attempt for power failed. Look at verse 16. What happened as a result? (lost their self-confidence, fear).
- What do you think we can learn from this? (In trying to gain self-confidence and avoid fear through their own sinful, selfish means, by going against God, in fact they lost those very things)

### Time of Prayer

Let's spend some time in quiet prayer before God.

Ask the Lord to remind you of any time you have engaged in rumours, or perhaps of words that have affected you

- If you yourself have engaged in rumours in some way, even if it is slandering another person, take this moment to confess it before God and repent. In the quiet, work out how you could go about seeking forgiveness from that individual or persons affected.
- If you yourself have been impacted by a rumour, take this opportunity to pray Nehemiah's prayer in verse 9: 'Now strengthen my hands'. Ask God to give you strength, to lay those rumours at the cross and to entrust Him to complete His work in you, just as He did with the wall around Jerusalem.