

Nic empowered and encouraged us as a church to use our influence to empower those around us

Can you summarise what Nic shared and how God spoke to you through it?

Nic began the morning by talking about how powerful and influential we all are and that in any given day we have the ability to change a person's day, or even to change their life with our words, thoughts and actions.

Q: Discuss as a group, some of the ways in you have influenced people this week, either positively or negatively. This could be a kind word to a shop assistant or a dismissive action to your children.

Nic broke the story of Nehemiah 5 down into the three sections and explained that the chapter was essentially a story of good and powerful people using their influence in a destructive way.

Q: The problem: Nic outlined the problem being strong people disempowering weak people. Have you witnessed such disempowerment within Bishop's Stortford, your work place or within the UK? How has it made you feel and what has your reaction been?

Nic spoke about Nehemiah's reaction and solution to such disempowerment and how justice is only present when people are *empowered*.

Q; Discuss ways in which you have been empowered by those around you and explain how it has made you feel?

Q: In what ways could you as an individual or as a group, aim to specifically empower people this week?

Nic finished by sharing how Jesus is the perfect example of someone who, had access to all power and authority and yet didn't use it to take advantage of us but used it to empower us. Why not finish by taking bread and wine whilst making a list of all the ways in which Jesus has empowered you now that you are a disciple of His.

Helpful resources

'Mercy Ministries' and 'Generous Justice' by Tim Keller are two excellent books on the subject of justice and empowering those around you.

'Culture of Honour' by Danny Silk is also a must read