Nation Building

How To Awaken the Selfless Leader in You

AT A GLANCE:
The title of the talk series is Nation Building: How To Awaken the Selfless Leader in You because it tackles an important issue: our role as citizens in making our country a better place for us and the generations to come. The role, as the sub-title of the talk hints, is for every citizen to be a selfless leader. Our battle cry: If you want to change this country, change your heart.

AFTER THE SERIES:
The talk series will make you reflect on your life and resolve to be a better person, to be a selfless, not selfish person. We can build a better nation if we are selfless persons. If we have enough selfless leaders—in families, in business, in schools, in church, in the government—this country will change.

Talk 2: "Be a Leader"

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

Talk 2, titled Be a Leader, is a call for leaders — in our community and in our country— who are selfless because anything great is built on selflessness. Selfish leaders ruin the country. So, the talk preaches on how to be selfless because this is how we build the nation. The only solution is a change of heart. The talk points out that the long-term solution for making our country great is making disciples for Jesus. And we in the Light of Jesus Family can do it through the Feast.

I. REVIEW THE KEY BIBLE VERSES:

Review the chronology of the story of Nehemiah:

1. Babylon, the largest city in the world in the 18th -16th century BC, conquered Jerusalem and forced the people to work as slaves in the country. Most of the elite were exiled—taken into captivity in Babylon (now known as a part of Iraq).

2. Some 50 years after, Persia (now known as Iran), conquered Babylon.

3. In 445/444 BC, Persia was already being ruled by King Artaxerxes.

4. In the 20th year of King Artaxerxes's reign, Nehemiah, one of the Jewish exiles, was serving as King Artaxerxes's cupbearer, or server of the King's wine.

5. Nehemiah, in the Book of Nehemiah, related what he felt when he learned what happened to Jerusalem: *Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. 3 They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."* (Nehemiah 1:2-3 NIV).

Nehemiah was shocked by what he heard. The Bible says, *When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.* (Nehemiah 1:4 NIV, emphasis added)

6. Moved by the suffering of the Jews, Nehemiah asked the King's permission to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city.

Notes:

7. King Artaxerxes sent Nehemiah to Judah as governor of the province to rebuild the walls.

8. Defying enemies — Samaritans, Ammonites, Arabs, and Philistines-- Nehemiah built the walls in 52 days

Point out the deeper reason Nehemiah happened to be in Persia serving as the King's cupbearer. He will be used by God to rebuild Jerusalem. Since he had access to the King, he was able to ask permission from him to rebuild Jerusalem.

Point out: Wherever you are, whatever your circumstances are, God is appointing you.

You are where you are now, not by accident, but by appointment. God put you in that office, in that school, in that club, in that gym, in that neighborhood, in that network for a reason. *Your position is linked to your purpose.* Perhaps that is where God is appointing you to build the nation.

II. ASK FOR REACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Ask for reactions on how Nehemiah was moved to help his countrymen.

Ask "What moves you?" Has anything moved you to the point of weeping? What pains you so much, that you can't stand the idea of doing nothing? Because maybe, just maybe, God is calling you to build the nation in this way.

III. PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Pray that members will receive the grace to be moved to become selfless to be able to fulfill their appointment— what God is asking them to do for Him, for the country.

Pray that members may continue to commit to fulfilling the mission of the Light of Jesus to make selfless disciples through The Feast — which is the calling of our faith community to be an effective instrument in building our nation.

Notes: