



Family Conversation Guide

(November 7, 2021)

This is the second of a 4 part series on the vision of Moments of Hope Church for the next 5 years. Each week, David Chadwick will unveil another piece of the vision God has given him and our leadership, and share how we can all be a part of what God is doing. “Without vision, people perish” (Proverbs 29:18)

Every church needs a vision- we need to know where we are going. With your family, discuss our vision and how we can be a part of doing big things for God. **“Be the Church...Just Go!”**

READ AND DISCUSS

1. Read **Matthew 16:18-19**. **What does Jesus tell Peter? Who is the rock upon which the church will be built?** (*Jesus tells Peter that his confession of faith is the first rock the church will be built upon, all others believing in Jesus will follow, and that nothing can overcome the church*). In **verse 19**, Jesus gives the church much power- that anything the church says and does on earth will be done in heaven! And vice versa! The church helps bring heaven to earth.
2. Read **Matthew 18:18**- Jesus talks about the church, saying the gates of hell will not prevail against us. Again, he talks about what is bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever is loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven.
What does this mean? (*Discuss*)
3. Read **Matthew 18:19-20**. **What happens when we gather together?** (*We will receive what we ask for from the Father in heaven, and wherever we gather, Jesus will be with us*)

4. Last week, David Chadwick walked us through the story of Nehemiah. **What was Nehemiah's vision for the Jews in Jerusalem?** (*To rebuild the walls around Jerusalem and restore their homeland*)

5. Nehemiah was able to convince the king to give him what he needed, and then he influenced the people to work together to rebuild the wall. Here are the ten core principles that Nehemiah exercised, and that are also a part of our mission and values:

- **Prayer** (The enemies of Nehemiah attempted over and over again to thwart Nehemiah's plans, even to kill him, and every time Nehemiah prayed and he defeated the enemies. He then asked God to remember his enemies. We can give our enemies to God and let Him do justice.)
- **Emphasis on marriage and the family** (The families helped build the wall in front of their homes, Nehemiah emphasized strong families working together. In **Chapter 13**, he called for people not to be unequally yoked, but to marry believers and raise their children as soldiers of God)
- **All involved in ministry**: married and singles (God has given all of us a purpose and gifts to release into the world- this happened when the wall was built as people used their gifts. We want all people to find their place in building the "walls" in MOHC's vision.)
- **A passion for the poor and underserved** (Nehemiah made a commitment to care for the poor. We have chosen 8 communities locally where we can help and serve and to give generously. **Jeremiah 29:7, Isaiah 58:10**)
- **Financial generosity**- the first fruits and the tithe (In **Nehemiah 10:35-39**, Nehemiah reminded the people to give their first fruits and their tithe. This is the beginning point for generous financial giving. By doing this, we are showing that God is first in our lives.)

- **The authority of God's word** over our lives (In **Nehemiah 8**, Nehemiah had Ezra read God's word to the people for six hours. We need to be a church that is committed to the textual authority and truth of God's word.)
- **The gathering together of God's people in worship** (Nehemiah and the people worshipped God together. **Hebrews 10:25**- "Do not forsake the gathering of believers") . There is a special power when God's people come together to worship.
- **Holiness** (In **Nehemiah 13**, when Nehemiah came back some time after the wall had been rebuilt, the people were once again disobeying God. Nehemiah reminded them to be a holy people as God had commanded. The church is God's instrument, called to be pure and holy, in this culture. The church should affect culture, not vice versa).
- **Courage in culture** (In **Nehemiah chapter 11**, Nehemiah called out the names of the "people of valor"- courageous to stand against culture and for Jesus.)
- **Sharing our faith** (This begins with our families- parents sharing their faith with their children and bringing them up to be strong followers of Jesus. We must know how to share the gospel. The key word to sharing the gospel with others is "forgiveness"-there is no other way except Jesus).

6. **What is the purpose of "building the core" of our church and ourselves?**

(To make us stronger so that we can go into the world and minister in the name of Jesus, knowing that the gates of hell cannot stand against us)

7. Are numbers important to God? Can our church do great things even when we are small? When David was going to war, what did David want to do? (He wanted to count how many soldiers he had with a census). But God

didn't want David to count. God wanted him simply to depend on Him, not large numbers, to win great battles. We must boast in the name of the Lord, not in ourselves or numbers. His strength is what will allow us to reach others for Jesus. So Jesus wants MOHC to be a strong church in our core to reach the world for Jesus.

8. Paul had a vision to take the gospel to Spain and to "the ends of the earth." In **Matthew 24:14**, Jesus says, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

Jesus had said he would return again, and here he implies it will be after everyone in the world has had a chance to hear about Him.

9. There are 7,000 unreached people groups in the world, and our church has reached 339 unreached people groups in the last 2 ½ years! **Our goal is to reach 1,000 unreached people groups in the next five years. Can we do this? Can God help us do great things for his glory?** Yes! Here are the places we will go and the places God has led us so far:

- Africa/Sudan (ALARM)
- Lebanon (Resurrection Church Beirut)
- Nepal (Global Mission Nepal, With Open Eyes, Mountain Child)
- India
- Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kurdistan, Turkey, N. Cypress, and Saudi Arabia (Global Catalytic)
- China (Thornston Educational Fund)
- Latin and South America (Camino Church)
- Israel and Pakistan (The Seed Company)
- Haiti and Nicaragua (Bless Back Worldwide)
- Syria and Yemen (Samaritan's Purse)

We are called to be a strong church. But also: Just go! Into the world. To reach the world for Jesus.

Next week, we will discuss how to reach and serve our community locally. To care for the underserved. Needy. Hurting people around us.

PRAYER

Dear God, Thank You for the leadership example of Nehemiah. Thank You for reminding us that when we pray and obey, amazing things can happen! Help us to see your vision for our church and for our lives to be lived in this world for you! In Jesus' name, Amen

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Help your children to have a kingdom perspective by praying together for others. We encourage you to pray for the areas of the world where our church is actively seeking to reach people who don't know about Jesus. **Place colored thumb tacks or pins on a globe or a map to show them where these places are. Each night, pray for one of the ministry partners in these countries.** Together, find out more about the countries you are praying for- how the people live, what their needs are, what is going on in the country that you can pray for- help your children understand how their prayers can help!

FOR YOUNGER KIDS

Talk about doing big things for God. Are little kids too young to do big things? Listen to the song **"Do Big Things" by Amber Sky Music.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5jja96E15U>