

Step Three- A Plan in Hand

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"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

"Mark out a straight path for your feet; then stick to the path and stay safe."

Proverbs 4:26 NLT/TLB

Nehemiah's 5 Step Planning Model . . .

Step 1: Pray for God's favor.

"O Lord, please hear my prayer! And listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me."

Nehemiah 1:11a NLT

"If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a (generous) supply of wisdom to all who ask him."

James 1:5a TLB

Step 2: Establish a clear target.

I answered, the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it."

Nehemiah 2:5 NIV

Step 3: Set a deadline.

Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time!

Nehemiah 2:6 NIV

Step 4: Anticipate the barriers I face.

"If it please the king, give me letters to the governors west of the Euphrates River instructing them to let me travel through their countries on my way to Judah; also a letter to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber for the beams and for the gates of the fortress near the Temple, and for the city walls, and for a house for myself."

Nehemiah 2:7b-8a TLB

Step 5: Trust God to meet all my needs.

"Because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests."

Nehemiah 2:8b NIV

"We may make our plans, but God has the last word."

Proverbs 16:1 GNT

God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19b NIV

Weekend Music:

One Thing Remains (Jeremy Riddle) • O Praise the Name (Benjamin Hastings)
Jesus at the Center (David Funk)