



Sermon Discussion Guide

“Arise and Build”

Nehemiah 2-3

Summary

This week's sermon continued our series in Nehemiah, inviting us to see what's broken and join what God is doing in the world and in our own lives. While Nehemiah rebuilt a physical wall, we are called to discern and join God's work of rebuilding, renewing, and reforming for His glory. But what work is God calling us to join Him in today?

Through Nehemiah's example, we explored five ways to discern the specific work God is calling us to:

1. **Know Your Place:** Recognize your significant place in redemptive history as a new covenant member, wherever God has placed you.
2. **Open Your Eyes:** Inspect the ruins around you – in your home, neighborhood, and city – with Christ's compassion.
3. **Follow Your Heart:** By the Spirit, pay attention to a "holy discontentment" – a burden for what breaks God's heart – and follow His leading.
4. **Involve Your Community:** Seek discernment and recruitment from the people of God, knowing that the mission is a community project.
5. **Trust Your God:** Step out in faith, expecting great things from God and leaving the results to His good hand.

Discussion Questions

Opener

What's the most neglected, "in-ruins" corner of your home or workspace right now? (ie that one junk drawer, the garage, the pile of laundry that has achieved sentience)

1. Know Your Place

Nehemiah was an ordinary cupbearer, but he knew his place as a member of God's covenant people whose mission was to bear witness to Yahweh.

- *How does the understanding of your identity as a member of God's new covenant people influence your perspective of your current job, location, or phase of life?*
- *Like Esther, Nehemiah was placed by God in the Persian court "for such a time as this." Where does God have you right now (job, neighborhood, family) and what specific opportunity for "good works" (Ephesians 2:10) might be unique to that place?*

2. Open Your Eyes (Nehemiah 2:13-17)

Nehemiah moved from hearing a report to inspecting the ruins firsthand, which ignited his compassion and solidarity ("You see the trouble we are in...").

- The sermon described how "numbers become names and statistics become souls" when we open our eyes. *What's one area of brokenness in your daily life, that you tend to walk past without inspecting or truly seeing?*
- *How can we practice intentionally "opening our eyes" this week to see the needs and brokenness right around us (ie, in our commute, at work, in our home)?*

3. Follow Your Heart (Nehemiah 2:12, 18)

Nehemiah was motivated by "what my God had put into my heart to do."

- **Read** Jeremiah 17:9 and then Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:26-27. *How has God addressed the problem of a “deceitful and desperately sick” heart in the New Covenant?*
- *How does submitting to God's Word and seeking His will guard your desires from becoming selfish, ensuring that "following your heart" means following His leading?*
- We heard about the idea of a "holy discontentment" – a restlessness that says, "Your will is not being done here, that bothers me, and someone needs to do something about it." *What from your life (upbringing, personality, wounds) has shaped the way you see and feel the brokenness in the world?*

4. Involve Your Community (Nehemiah 2:17-18; ch. 3)

Nehemiah's first act after inspecting the walls was to invite others in, which can serve both as discernment and recruitment.

- *When you have a burden or a new idea for ministry, why is it vital to bring it to your community (like your GCG or trusted friends) for discernment before launching into action?*
- Nehemiah 3 shows that many different types of people all worked "next to" each other on the wall. Nehemiah had the vision. Others joined in. *How can we better stir one another up towards love and good deeds (Heb 10:24)?*

5. Trust Your God (Nehemiah 2:20; 6:15-16)

Nehemiah declared in faith that "The God of heaven will make us prosper" before the work started, and their enemies later admitted, "This work had been accomplished with the help of our God."

- *What specific need or task have you been holding back on because you doubt your own ability or resources?*
- *What does it look like to "Expect great things and Attempt great things" in your life this season, while leaving the results and the glory entirely to God?*