

## NEHEMIAH, PART 3: CLARIFY

When problems become our passion, we discover God's purpose for our lives. But when is the right time to start talking about what's burning within your heart? When it's time to talk about the purpose God has birthed in you, you should be able to answer these four questions clearly: the problem, the solution, the reason and the timing.

BIG IDEA: If God is planting a passion and a purpose in your heart? Dwell don't tell.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- \* Remember the goal is to use the questions to generate discussion, not to complete every one.
- 1. How is your eyes and your vision? Can you see clearly or is it blurry?
- 2. Do you wear glasses? When did you realize that your eyes needed corrective lenses?
- 3. Through this series, we have discovered that *when problems become our passion, we discover God's purpose for our lives*. Have you shared with the group something that you have a burden for? A specific problem you see in the world that you're passionate about? If not, do so now.
- 4. With your Bible or Bible App, read Nehemiah 2:11-16:
  - 11 So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, 12 I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem. We took no pack animals with us except the donkey I was riding. 13 After dark I went out through the Valley Gate, past the Jackal's Well, and over to the Dung Gate to inspect the broken walls and burned gates. 14 Then I went to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but my donkey couldn't get through the rubble. 15 So, though it was still dark, I went up the Kidron Valley instead, inspecting the wall before I turned back and entered again at the Valley Gate. 16 The city officials did not know I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders—the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration.

    Nehemiah 2:11-16 (NLT)
- 5. Why did Nehemiah feel it was necessary to ride out at night to survey the broken walls? How does having the facts of a situation help you make better decisions?
- 6. Summarize what Nehemiah found when he inspected the walls.
- 7. Why do you think Nehemiah didn't tell anyone about his plans and purposes God had laid on his heart?
- 8. With your Bible or Bible App, read Nehemiah 2:17-18:

<sup>17</sup>But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" <sup>18</sup> Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.

Nehemiah 2:17-18 (NLT)

- 9. How did Nehemiah show the people that his purpose was conceivable, believable, and achievable? Why is this important if you want others to buy in to your vision?
- 10. In verses 17-18, what reasons did Nehemiah give for trying again to rebuild the wall?

- 11. In verse 18, Nehemiah *told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king.* Nehemiah could personally attest that God was alive and active on his behalf. Where have you seen God move in your past? Where have you seen God moving today?
- 12. Chris said that there are 4 clarifying questions when it comes to Purpose. *What's the problem? What's the solution? What's the reason? When's the timing?* Why is all 4 of those important so that others to buy in to your vision?
- 13. How would you characterize the people's response to Nehemiah's invitation, indicated in the last sentence of 2:18?

## MOVING FORWARD

Rebuilding begins with realizing that things are broken, and we all have something that we are rebuilding in our lives. Chris challenged us for the next 52 Days, to pray the prayer: "God, what are you calling me to Rebuild?"

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.

Nehemiah 2:18 (NLT)

