

MANO 

[**NEHEMIAH : LEAD WITH VISION**]

I AM A MAN.

**God has called me, gifted me,
empowered me, and positioned
me to lead myself, my family,
& my community.**

TODAY I CHOOSE TO . . .

- Own It**
- Ask for Help**
- Never Quit**
- Take the Lead**
- Finish the Job**

SESSION 1

[OWN IT]

OWN IT.

Nehemiah 1

¹ These are the memoirs of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa. ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem.

³ They said to me, "**Things are not going well** for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

⁴ When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ Then I said, "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands,

⁶ listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for **your people** Israel. I confess that **we** have sinned against you. Yes, even **my own family** and **I have** sinned! ⁷ We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.

Own the PROBLEM.

Q :: What **PROBLEMS** have destroyed our community?

- **morality problem** - absence of right and wrong
- **priority problem** - chase power, popularity, possessions
- **longevity problem** - quit before the job is done

Q :: What are me most tempted to do with the **PROBLEM**?

⁸ “Please **remember** what you told your servant Moses: ‘If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. ⁹ But **if** you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, **then** even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored.’

Own the PROMISE.

“You can’t OWN a promise you don’t KNOW.”

- **LISTEN to the promise** - church, groups, podcasts
- **READ the promise** - rhythmic & strategic bible reading
- **SPEAK the promise** - rhythmic and strategic prayer

Q :: What **PROMISE** do you need to believe right now?

Own the POWER.

¹⁰ “The people you rescued by **your great power** and strong hand are your servants. ¹¹ O Lord, please hear my prayer! 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.”

Q :: How do we receive God’s **POWER**?

Own the POSITION.

¹¹ In those days I was the king’s cup-bearer.

PRAYER :: “Help me use my **POSITION** for your **MISSION**.”

OWN IT :: Q&A

Q :: Why did I choose to attend **MANUP**?

Q :: Which of these 3 problems are the biggest struggle for me? my family? my community?

- **morality problem** - absence of right and wrong
- **priority problem** - chase power, popularity, possessions
- **longevity problem** - quit before the job is done

Q :: How do I typically respond to problems?

Q :: Which of these 3 solutions do I find to be the most difficult to do and why?

- **LISTEN to the promise** - church, groups, podcasts
- **READ the promise** - rhythmic & strategic bible reading
- **SPEAK the promise** - rhythmic and strategic prayer

Q :: What positions do I currently hold . . .

(husband / father / boss / coach / business leader / etc) and who is directly affected by my ability to lead?

SESSION 2

[ASK FOR HELP]

ASK FOR HELP.

Ask for ::

- **Ask God for CLARITY and FAVOR.**
- **Ask Others for HELP and SUPPORT.**

Nehemiah 2

¹ Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence. ² So the king asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled." Then I was terrified, ³ but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

⁴ The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?"

With a prayer to the God of heaven, ⁵ I replied, "If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried."

⁶ The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, "How long will you be gone? When will you return?" After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request. ⁷ I also said to the king, "If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah. ⁸ And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself."

And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me.

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.

¹⁷ 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!**" ¹⁸ 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.**

Ask God for CLARITY and FAVOR.

- God is the **ONLY** one that can clarify the **VISION**.
- God is the **ONLY** one that can do what I **CAN'T**.

Ask Others for HELP and SUPPORT.

- Be **SPECIFIC** with the ask.
- Be **BOLD** with the ask.

ASK FOR HELP :: Q&A

Q :: Why am I hesitant to ask for help?

Q :: Where do I go **FIRST** when I'm ready for help & why do I typically start there?

Q :: Why should I ask both God **AND** Others for help?

Q :: Do I have someone(s) in my life that I can be completely honest, transparent, and vulnerable with?

Assignment :: Spend a few minutes in prayer and then write a "Prayer for Help" on the back of this sheet.

SESSION 3

[NEVER QUIT]

NEVER QUIT.

Overcome ACCUSATION with PRAYER.

- **4:2** - “What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they’re doing? Do they think they can build the wall in a single day by just offering a few sacrifices? Do they actually think they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap - and charred ones at that.”
- **4:4-5** - “Then I **PRAYED** - Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads, and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land! Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot out their sins, for they have provoked **you** to anger in front of the builders.”

Overcome EXHAUSTION with VISION.

- **4:6 & 10** - “At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm. Then the people of Judah began to complain - the workers are getting **TIRED**, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves.”
- **4:14** - “Don’t be afraid of the enemy! **REMEMBER** the Lord, who is great and glorious, and **FIGHT** for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”

Overcome OPPOSITION with RE-VISION.

- **4:16-17** - “**FROM THEN ON**, only half my men worked while the other half **STOOD GUARD** - the laborers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon.”

Overcome ISOLATION with COMMUNITY.

- **4:19** - “The work is very spread out, and we are widely **SEPARATED** from each other along the wall.”
- **4:20** - “When you hear the blast of the trumpet, rush to wherever it is sounding. Then our God will fight for **US**.”

Overcome DEPRESSION with ACTION.

- **5:1-5** - “Some of the men and their wives raised a cry of protest against their fellow Jews. We need more food to survive. We have mortgaged our fields, vineyards, and homes. We have sold our children into slavery just to get enough money to live. We are **HELPLESS**.”
- **5:7-11** - “Then I called a public meeting to **DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM** - What you are doing is not right! Should you not walk in the fear of our God in order to avoid being mocked by enemy nations? Let us **stop** the business of charging interest. You must **restore** their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes to them this very day. And **repay** the interest you charged them.”

Overcome DISTRACTION with DECISION.

- **6:1-2** - “Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem, and the rest of our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained - though we had not yet set the doors in the gates. They sent a message asking to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me.”
- **6:3 & 9** - So I replied by sending this message to them:
“I am doing a great work and **I CAN'T COME DOWN**. They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I **CONTINUED** the work with even greater determination.”

NEVER QUIT :: Q&A

Q :: Which of these 6 make me most tempted to quit?

- accusation
- exhaustion
- opposition
- isolation
- depression
- distraction

Q :: When I face accusation with **PRAYER** - God helps me **embrace** the truth and **release** the rest. What truth do I need to embrace? What lie do I need to release?

Q :: Am I actively taking days and seasons of **REST**?

Q :: What current plan needs **RE-VISION**?

Q :: How am I pursuing **COMMUNITY** with other men?

Q :: What is my "**GREAT WORK**" and how will I keep from "**COMING DOWN**?"

Q :: What **ONE ACTION** do I need to take **ASAP**?

SESSION 4

[TAKE THE LEAD]

TAKE THE LEAD.

Go FIRST.

- **8:5** - "Ezra stood on the platform **in full view** of all the people. When they saw him open the Book of the Law, they all rose to their feet. Then Ezra praised the Lord, the great God, and all the people chanted, 'Amen! Amen!' as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground."

"A leader isn't the first one to see the problem - a leader is the one that goes first." - Andy Stanley

Q :: Who is waiting for you to GO FIRST?

Be CLEAR.

- **8:8** - "They read from the Book of the Law of God and **clearly explained** the meaning of what what being read, helping the people understand each passage."

"Tell them what you know and what you don't know."

"Mean what you say and say what you mean!"

Q :: How do you know if you've been clear?

Speak the VISION.

- **8:9-10** - “Nehemiah said to the people, ‘Don’t mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the Lord your God.’ For the people had all been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. And Nehemiah continued, ‘Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. **This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don’t be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!**”

Q :: What makes a vision powerful?

Call to ACTION.

- **9:5** - “Then the leaders of the Levites - **called out** to the people: ‘Stand up and praise the Lord your God, for he lives from everlasting to everlasting!’ Then they prayed.”
- **9:38** - “The people responded, ‘In view of all this, we are making a **solemn promise and putting it in writing**. On this sealed document are the names of our leaders and Levites and priests.”
- **10:28-29** - “Together with their wives, sons, and daughters, and all who were old enough to understand - joined their leaders and bound themselves with an oath. They solemnly promised to **carefully follow** all the commands, regulations, and decrees of the Lord our Lord.”

Q :: Are you ready to take ACTION?

Q :: What is the ONE THING you need to do next?

TAKE THE LEAD :: Q&A

Q :: Is there a tension between **empowering** & **leading**?

Q :: What circle of life is the most difficult for me to Lead?

- **myself**
- **my family**
- **my community (company)**
- **why?**

Q :: Who is **waiting** for me to Lead?

Q :: Have I clearly defined a God-Given **VISION**
for myself? my family? my community?

Assignment :: Use the back side of this sheet to start the process of defining a **PERSONAL** Vision / **FAMILY** Vision / **COMMUNITY** Vision. Ask God for specific goals and wins.

SESSION 5

[FINISH THE JOB]

FINISH THE JOB.

52 days and 12 years later . . .

- **wall** had been rebuilt / **confession** had been made
worship had been restored / **leaders** were leading
- after 12 years of Governing the Vision - Nehemiah went back to his position with King Artaxerxes in Babylon.

1. RETURN to your post.

13:7 - "I later asked the Kings permission to **return** and when I arrived back in Jerusalem, I learned . . ."

[enemy sleeping in the temple / married to pagans
children didn't know God's law or God's language
buying, selling, and working on the Sabbath]

2. REMOVE everything that is destructive, distractive, or deceptive.

13:8-9 - "I became very upset and threw **all** of Tobiah's belongings out of the room. Then I demanded that the rooms be purified."

13:11 - "I immediately **confronted** the Leaders and demanded - Why has the Temple of God been neglected?"

13:17-18 - "I **confronted** the Nobles of Judah -
Why are you profaning the Sabbath in this evil way?
Wasn't it just this sort of thing that your ancestors did that caused our God to bring all this trouble upon us and our city?"

13:25 - “I **confronted** them and called down curses on them.

I beat some of them and pulled out their hair. I made them swear in the name of God that they would not let their children intermarry with the pagan people of the land.”

13:30 - “I **purged** out everything foreign.”

3. RESTORE anything that restores LIFE.

13:9 - “I **brought back** the articles for God’s Temple, the grain offerings, and the frankincense.”

13:12 - “I called all the Levites back again and **restored** them to their proper duties.”

13:13 - “I **assigned** supervisors for the storerooms.”

13:22 - “I **commanded** the Levites to purify themselves and to guard the gates in order to preserve the holiness of the Sabbath.”

13:30 - “I **assigned** tasks to the priests and Levites, making certain that each knew his work.”

4. REMEMBER the why.

13:14 - “**Remember** this good deed, O my God, and do not forget all that I have faithfully done.”

**I am a MAN. God has called me,
gifted me, empowered me, and positioned me
to lead myself, my family, and my community. Today
I choose to own it, ask for help, never quit, empower others, take
the lead, and FINISH THE JOB.**

FINISH THE JOB :: Q&A

Q :: What's the **FIRST** thing you need to **RETURN** to?

Q :: I need to **REMOVE** these things ASAP . . .

-
-
-
-

Q :: I need to **RESTORE** these things ASAP . . .

-
-
-
-

Q :: The one thing I need to **REMEMBER** is . . .

Assignment :: Pray through this statement . . .

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