



## REFLECT

1. Describe a situation in which you were commended for something you did. What were you rewarded for? How were you recognized for your hard work?
2. How did you feel while you were being commended? Was it awkward? Why or why not?

## ENCOUNTER

Nehemiah was a great leader. The end of Nehemiah 5 gives us a unique reason why he tried to lead well. Nehemiah selflessly took care of the people that he led (5:14–19). And at the end of this passage, Nehemiah offers a prayer to God: “Remember me favorably, my God, for all that I have done for this people” (5:19).

In short, Nehemiah led well because he knew God would reward him. And Scripture teaches that God will reward his people commensurate with their work (see Colossians 3:22–24 and Ephesians 6:6–8). One passage in particular addresses this. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1–15 and discuss the following questions.

3. What was the source of “envy and strife” in Corinth?
4. If God is the one who causes people to grow, why are God’s servants rewarded for their labor?

Paul likens Great Commission obedience to a building. In the analogy, the cornerstone of Jesus Christ is firm and unchanging. But the rest of the building could be either good or bad, imperishable or perishable. When Jesus returns, he will reveal what actions will be rewarded and which will perish.

5. Discuss what types of building materials (Great Commission service) will be rewarded and what types will perish.

## TRANSFORM

6. Why can it feel awkward or disingenuous to obey God out of the desire to be rewarded?
7. How does the promise of reward encourage you to be a Great Commission Christian?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

*One More Disciple*

*“For a servant to pursue the reward and commendation of the Master isn’t a sign of hubris; it’s a mark of true humility.”*

*~ Elliot Clark ~*