



Week 1: What is my Burden?

1. When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up? Why?
2. If you could make a difference in the world, and time, money, and skill were no object, what would you want to do?
3. What breaks your heart? What might be something you can do about that?
4. Read Nehemiah 1:2-6. What can you learn about engaging broken places from Nehemiah's example?
5. We begin to discern our God-Sized burden by; mourning, praying, and then sharing. Where are you in this process?
6. How can we as a Group Group use our collective passions, skills, and resources that God has given us to start engaging broken places?
7. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power together:

Father, we thank You for giving us the opportunity to partner with You engaging broken places. Reveal to us ways we can serve You while pursuing the burdens we have with the passions You've given us. Stay by our side as we take our first steps toward Engaging our world with Your Good News.

In Jesus' name, amen.

This week's Spiritual Practice: Meditation

Meditation: The ability to hear God's voice and obey his word.

Meditation is the ability to hear God's voice and obey his word. Christian meditation means creating space and time for a meeting between God and you. It is a creation of space, emotionally and spiritually, in our often hectic and hurried world, allowing the Creator of the universe to meet with us as he met Moses, face to face, as a friend.

What happens in meditation is that we create the emotional and spiritual space which allows Christ to construct an inner sanctuary in the heart.

—Richard J. Foster, Celebration of Discipline

This week, make time to sit with God and meditate on Nehemiah Chp.1 and his response to learning of the broken walls in Jerusalem. Think about the "broken walls" that you have encountered this week, this year, or in your life. Invite God to reveal how the specific burden you carry for a specific area of brokenness (a relationship, a community problem, a social problem, a world problem) may actually be more than a burden - but the beginning of a Divine calling. Ask God to help you process how you might respond to that brokenness not through reaction, but instead by joining God in His work in this world. Pray for God's help in discerning a first step. Discuss it with a friend or your Grace Group. And then take a first step toward joining God in bringing Kingdom transformation to the burden God has given you.