



Begin with Prayer

September 13, 2026

Read & Reflect

READ: Nehemiah 1:1–1, Nehemiah 2:1–8, Isaiah 6:8

Nehemiah discovered that Jerusalem was broken, but he didn't immediately rush in to fix it. He allowed the burden to move him toward prayer, preparation, and eventually action.

Understand the Moment

Nehemiah's discontent became more than frustration. When he heard about Jerusalem, he wept, fasted, prayed, and began asking what God might want **him** to do.

For nearly four months, Nehemiah waited. But the pause wasn't wasted. He prayed, confessed, prepared, and became ready for the opportunity God eventually provided.

When the door finally opened, Nehemiah could boldly respond. **He had prepared for what he had been praying for.**

Process Together or Alone

- What situation in your life makes you think, “Somebody needs to do something”?
- How could that discontent become a calling rather than just a complaint?
- What might God want to develop in you during your current season of waiting?
- What does Nehemiah's prayer teach you about preparing spiritually before taking action?
- If God opened the door you've been praying for tomorrow, would you be ready?

Follow Jesus This Week

Listen

- What burden keeps returning to your heart?
- Could God be showing you an area where He wants to use you?

Obey

- What can you begin doing now instead of simply waiting for circumstances to change?
- Is there something you need to confess or surrender before moving forward?

Share

- Where do you live, work, learn, or play that God may be calling you to live as an everyday missionary?
- Who could you intentionally begin building a relationship with?

Care

- Who is carrying a burden that you can begin praying about with them?
- How can you encourage someone who is frustrated by a long season of waiting?



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Live It Out

Write down one situation you've been asking God to change.

Then create three headings:

PAUSE — PRAY — PREPARE

Under **Pause**, write what God may be developing in you while you wait.

Under **Pray**, write what needs to change in your own heart—not just your circumstances.

Under **Prepare**, write one practical action you can take now so you'll be ready when God opens the door.

Finish by praying Isaiah's response:

“Here I am. Send me.”

Remember: Don't just pray for God to open a door. Prepare yourself to walk through it.

Pray

- Ask God to show you where discontent may actually be revealing a calling.
- Confess anything in your own heart that needs renewal before circumstances change.
- Ask for patience and maturity during seasons when God has you waiting.

I see things around me—and within me—that aren't the way they should be. Instead of simply complaining or waiting for someone else to act, show me where You want to use me. Work in my heart while I wait. Teach me to pray faithfully, prepare wisely, and trust Your timing. When You open the door, give me the courage to walk through it for the honor of Your name. Here I am, Lord. Send me. Amen.

Group Leader Optional Questions

Opening Question:

What's something you've looked at recently and thought, “Somebody really needs to do something about that”?

Closing Reflection:

What is one thing you can begin doing now to prepare for the answer you've been asking God to give?