

### God has a good work for you.

They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work. Nehemiah 2:18 NLT

### God specializes in using ordinary people.

...while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." Nehemiah 1:1-3

### How do you begin the good work?

#### 1) Sit down to cry.

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. Nehemiah 1:4

- What breaks your heart?

#### 2) Kneel down to pray.

For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven...  
<sup>5</sup>Then I said: "LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, <sup>6</sup>let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel." Nehemiah 1:4-6

Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Nehemiah 1:11

#### 3) Stand up to act.

I was very much afraid... Nehemiah 2:2

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it." Neh. 2:4, 5

### Let's Connect

If you could make a difference in the world, and time, money, and skill were no object, what would you want to do?

### Let's Talk About It

Nehemiah is a great example of how an ordinary person changed his world by doing something extraordinary. Nehemiah was heartbroken by the fact that the wall and gates of Jerusalem were destroyed. He decided to act on his burden by committing to rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. What burden has God placed in your heart? Let's follow Nehemiah's example of taking this burden to God through prayer and worship. Then trust God to work through you and use your life as you stand up to act.

Nehemiah 1:1-11; Nehemiah 2:2-5, 18

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- What breaks your heart? What opportunities are in front of you?
- Read Nehemiah 1:2-6. What can you learn about starting a good work from Nehemiah's example?
- We begin the good work when we sit down to cry, kneel down to pray, and then stand up to act. Where are you in the process?
- Read Nehemiah 2:2-5, 18. How can you use the passions, skills and resources God's given you to start a good work? Where do you need courage to move forward despite the fear you may encounter?

### Take a Step

- Spend time this week considering what you're passionate about. Pray for God's help as you stand up to act.
- SOAP reading: **Day 1:** Psalm 138, Luke 22; **Day 2:** Psalm 149, Luke 23; **Day 3:** Psalm 14, Luke 24; **Day 4:** Psalm 33, Matthew 1; **Day 5:** Psalm 49, Matthew 2; **Day 6:** Psalm 67, Matthew 3; **Day 7:** Psalm 79, Matthew 4

### Here's My Prayer

- Father, thank You for giving us the opportunity to partner with You in Your good work. Reveal to us ways we can serve You while pursuing the passions You've given us. Stay by our side as we take our first steps toward Your good work. In Jesus' name, amen.
- Heavenly Father, thank you for miraculously bringing us to *The Willows* property. Please increase our faith and courage as we focus on You and move forward together in the process of taking possession of *The Willows*.