

Nehemiah Principles of Success – How to Be an Agent of Change

Nehemiah 2-3 – Message Discussion Guide

Connect

- What is one dream or passion you wish you could go back ten years and tell yourself to pursue with greater commitment?

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Nehemiah 2:16-18.
 - What do you think was the disgrace that Nehemiah spoke of in 2:17?
 - Why do you think people live with “disgrace” for so long without addressing the situation?
 - What do you think was the biggest reason the people heartily agreed to start the cleanup and rebuilding in 2:18?
- Read 1 Samuel 17:8-10, 16.
 - Make a list of four or five reasons you think no one stood up to Goliath. What do you think was going through the minds of Israelites after 40 days of two challenges a day from Goliath?
 - If you could have given advice to the Israelites (before David showed up), how would you have counseled them? What would you have told them to do in the face of their fears?
- Read Genesis 6:14-18, Hebrews 11:7.
 - What do you think was the key thing Noah exercised in order to be successful in the almost impossible assignment the Lord gave him?
 - What was the relationship between how much faith Noah had in God and how he was able to be obedient?
 - How does the size of our faith determine our obedience and success?
- Read Galatians 6:1-3, James 5:16, 1 Corinthians 12:25-26
 - According to these verses, in what ways do Christians need other Christians in order to live out the fullest expression of a Christian life?
 - Why is it so hard for Christians to lean on other Christians to clean up our rubble and to strengthen the walls in our lives?

Respond

- What kinds of personal or relationship rubble do people often just learn to live with? What kinds of walls are often broken down and left in disrepair in people’s lives? How would you counsel people in light of this message?
- If you knew you would not fail, what God-given passion or calling would you chase after with all your heart? Why are we reluctant to pursue those passions or callings?

Bonus for Thinkers

- If the historical accounts of Noah, Moses, David, and Nehemiah point to “big faith” as the first key to success, what do these accounts suggest is the second most important key to success?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (9/9)	Nehemiah 3:1-32
Tuesday (9/10)	2 Corinthians 1:1-24
Wednesday (9/11)	2 Corinthians 2:1-17
Thursday (9/12)	2 Corinthians 3:1-18
Friday (9/13)	2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (9/9) — Nehemiah 3:1-32

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

Tuesday (9/10) — 2 Corinthians 1:1-24

- According to 1:4, why does God comfort us when we face difficult times?
- In 1:8-9, Paul describes some of the great difficulty they faced while serving the Lord. At the end of 1:9 he tells us why God allowed them to suffer so much. What was God’s reason?
- How could the believers in Corinth best help Paul and his ministry (1:11)? How could you help those serving in the Kingdom of God by praying for them right now?
- Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Given the things we have been through in life, what are some ways we can comfort others facing difficulty? What kind of difficulties could we best walk people through?

Wednesday (9/11) — 2 Corinthians 2:1-17

- It is clear in 2:1-4 that Paul loved the people of Corinth, and love was his motivation for writing them such a harsh and critical letter (1 Corinthians). Do you have someone in your life that loves you enough to be harsh and critical sometimes, for your betterment? If so, thank the Lord for that person. Are you that person for someone else?
- In 2:11 we learn that one of the reasons we should forgive those who have sinned against us is so that we not be outwitted by Satan or caught up in his strategy to wound us. So what are some of the problems an unforgiving attitude causes?
- Read closely 2:15-16. In what ways are you a fragrance of Jesus Christ in the presence of lost people in your family or community?

Thursday (9/12) — 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

- In 3:1-3, Paul is saying that the evidence of his labor for the Lord can be seen in the changed lives of the men and women in Corinth. In the ways you serve the Lord, what evidence is there that God is working?
- The hope Paul speaks of in 3:12 is the assurance that comes from knowing that our relationship with the Lord is based on his covenant with us, not on us following every single rule without exception. Spend a minute or two and thank the Lord for his amazing grace and wonderful mercy that allows us to live with peace and not fear!
- We learn in 3:18 that we as God’s children are growing to be more and more like the Lord in character. What are some changes the Lord has made in your life in the last couple of months? Thank the Lord for those. Ask the Lord what changes you need to focus on next.

Friday (9/13) — 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

- What is Paul teaching us when he says this treasure (the knowledge of the glory of God) is in jars of clay (4:7, also 4:5)? Should those who observe our lives and listen to our words be impressed with us or with the Lord? Is that true in our lives?
- Reread 4:8-9. Describe Paul’s attitude when he faced difficulty. How is that different than yours?
- In 4:17-18 Paul keeps his difficulties in life and ministry in proper perspective by focusing on something. What did he focus on? How could this same strategy help you deal with frustrations and difficulties?
- Read 2 Corinthians 4:2. How can someone “tamper” with the Word of God?