

# Discussion Guide

*Discussion Guides accompany the [weekly message](#).*

## **Opening Activity:**

Invite each person to share a time when they felt God's clear favor—a moment where His provision, timing, or intervention made something possible they could never have done themselves. Encourage them to highlight what they learned about God through that moment.

**Read:** Nehemiah 2:1-18

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. God's favor is undeserved kindness that positions us for His purposes, regardless of circumstances (Nehemiah 1:11; Nehemiah 2:8; Proverbs 3:5-6). How does this definition shift your view of what "favor" means compared to cultural ideas of luck or blessing?
2. Prayer positions us to recognize and walk through God's open doors (Nehemiah 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). How do you practice "under-the-breath" prayers like Nehemiah?
3. God can change hearts that seem unchangeable (Nehemiah 2:1-6; Ezra 4:11-23; Matthew 19:26). How does this truth influence how you pray for difficult people or situations?
4. Favor is often the result of faithful persistence—Nehemiah prayed for four months before the door opened (Nehemiah 1:1; 2:1; Luke 18:1-8). Where do you need to persevere in prayer?
5. Spiritual opposition is real, but God's favor is great (Nehemiah 2:9-10; John 10:10; Ephesians 6:11-12). How can you prepare yourself to walk in God's favor without being derailed by attacks or discouragement?
6. Share a time when you saw an "impossible" situation turn around in your life. How did it impact your faith?
7. How do you usually respond when an opportunity arises—jump in quickly, pray first, or hesitate until it's too late?
8. What's one circumstance in your life right now that feels like a "closed door"? How can the group pray for you in it?
9. Have you ever been surprised by God providing more than you asked for—like Nehemiah receiving not only permission, but also protection and resources?
10. How do you discern the difference between God opening a door and you trying to force one open yourself?

## **Challenge for the Week:**

Each day this week, pray Nehemiah's prayer in your own words: "Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me" (Nehemiah 1:11).

- Identify one area where you need God's favor and commit to persistent prayer over it.
- Look for a way to be the "door-opener" for someone else this week—introduce them to a resource, relationship, or opportunity they could never access on their own.

Write down what happens and share with the group next time.