

# WEEK FIVE

## UNIMAGINABLE GOD

## Nehemiah 5-6

**Summary:** God-sized accomplishments are celebrated when we dare to believe God for the unimaginable.

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# PRAYER CALENDAR

## **MONDAY / FEB. 25**

**READ:** Nehemiah 6:15-16

**PRAY:** God, your strength is unimaginable! Help me to trust you to finish the work that you have begun in my life, and to always see that you will always help me in all that you ask me to do.

## **TUESDAY / FEB. 26**

**READ:** Luke 17:5-6

**PRAY:** Lord, show me how to increase my faith every day. Even when my faith is tiny, grow it into an unshakable belief and trust in you.

## **WEDNESDAY / FEB. 27**

**READ:** Hebrews 11:1-3

**PRAY:** I know that the universe was formed by your word! Instill in me the belief to trust all your promises, even when I can't yet see the results for which I hope.

## **THURSDAY / FEB. 28**

**READ:** Psalm 28:7

**PRAY:** Thank you for being my strength and thank you that I can trust in you always. Help me to respond to your love and faithfulness with joy and thanksgiving every day!

## **FRIDAY / MAR. 1**

**READ:** Galatians 6:9-10

**PRAY:** Father, give me your strength and an endurance that overcomes every obstacle. Help me to look ahead to your promises and be an example of love and generosity to all.

# DRIVE IT HOME

*God loves to create reasons for awe and celebration. What most amazed you about the worship service today? In what ways did you see others express joy and excitement at the Unimaginable vision? How did you see evidence that God was doing something big?*

## **Discuss as a Family:**

- How did it feel to make your commitment to the *Unimaginable* vision?
- How can we help each other to keep our commitment over the next three years?

As a family, use some cardboard, glue, and tape to make small models of a few buildings to represent the city you live in. As you are making your "cityscape," discuss the following...

- What did we learn as a family through this season of faith, love, and generosity?
- What new habits do we as a family want to carry forward? Discuss the changes.
- How can we encourage each other as a family to continue living out a generous lifestyle?

## **Prayer:**

Lord, make the things that seem impossible to me, imaginable by your power.

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## **Un-Imagine-able!**

Why do stories of God doing the unimaginable seem so rare?

What could God do if every part of your life is centered around his mission? What if each generation of your family had multiple stories of God doing the unimaginable in their lives?

What if "unimaginable" actually became imagine-able to you?

# LIFE GROUP STUDY

**Series Big Idea:** When Jerusalem’s city walls were crumbling and the hearts of the people were failing, God raised up a group of people that accomplished the unimaginable. Through Nehemiah’s story, we learn that when partner together in God’s mission, the results are worth celebrating.

**Pull Together.** Tell a time in your life where you or someone you know experienced one of God’s unimaginable moments – a time when something amazing happened. How did you feel when you realized God’s amazing power was at work, or when you heard about his surprising work in someone else’s life?

## Reflect on the Biblical Story

## Nehemiah 6:15-16

The people who committed to rebuilding Jerusalem’s walls faced hard work, long hours, and unrelenting opposition. Yet, they never gave up. Each day they returned to their work. Each night they dreamt of the finished product. Each new morning, they re-invested their strength and resources to see the wall completed.

Read Nehemiah 6:15. Soak in that statement. Describe how the leaders and laborers might have been feeling during the final week as the wall neared completion.

If the work in the middle of the project was described as “enthusiastic” (Nehemiah 4:6), describe what the last day of work must have been like (Nehemiah 6:15)?

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However, not everyone was celebrating enthusiastically. Read Nehemiah 6:16. What kind of impact did the amazing completion of the project have on those who opposed the project? What kind of impact do you imagine the completed project had on any who had refused to participate in it (recall Nehemiah 3:5)?

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Who seems to get the attention and credit for the amazing accomplishment once the project is completed (v. 16)?

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What does this story teach you about God? What do you learn about humans?

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**Discuss together these implications:**

- God’s greatest victories come in the midst of intense challenge.
- Your greatest celebrations occur when you have invested great resources into the completion of worthwhile Kingdom goals.
- Your enthusiastic and enduring contribution matters to the completion of God’s great mission.
- Though your own fingerprints are on “the wall” of a great project, people should really notice that God has been at work!

## Responding to God's Story

1. Describe how this past Sunday's celebration impacted you. What kinds of celebrations will happen in First Christian's new facility?

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2. Can you identify expenditures in your lifestyle that could be reordered so you could give to help more people find their way back to God?

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3. What joys have you experienced through this *Unimaginable* initiative?

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4. Describe one way that your lifestyle will be different because of what you learned in this initiative. How will you continue to partner with God in his mission?

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**Prayer:** Lord, I praise you for the many ways you demonstrate your goodness and glory. You are able to do the unimaginable - even in our generation. Thank you for allowing us to add our part in the *Unimaginable* vision for First Christian. I long for my life, my voice, my heart, and my hands to be filled with these unimaginable stories so the world, within my reach, can find its way back to you.