



A TIME TO REBUILD

## Stepping Into Action

July 19, 2020 | Mark Hadley

### ● Faith Helps Us OVERCOME ADVERSITY

*So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king's letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me. When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites. **NEHEMIAH 2:9-10 NIV***

### ● Faith Helps Us See The POSSIBLE

*I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work. **NEHEMIAH 2:11-16 NIV***

### ● Faith Helps Us STEP IN And Stand Up

*Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work. But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?" I answered them by saying, "The God of Heaven will give us success. We His servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."*

**NEHEMIAH 2:17-20 NIV**

### ● Faith Helps Us WAIT ON GOD

*In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart." I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" **NEHEMIAH 2:1-3 NIV***

### ● Faith Helps Us ANSWER TO AUTHORITY

*The king said to me, "What is it you want?" 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 fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it." Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests. **NEHEMIAH 2:4-8 NIV***

NEXT WEEK: Linking Arms Together



This Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. Join one of our message-based Community Groups to do this study together. To get connected, email [laura@twincitieschurch.com](mailto:laura@twincitieschurch.com).

**LESSON AIM: The aim of this lesson is to learn to pray and rise up into action.**

## STUDY GUIDE:

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1. On Sunday, we considered how we are to “rise up” to take action in partnership with God. What excited you about this?
2. Read Nehemiah 2. Nehemiah was troubled by the news that Jerusalem's walls and gate had been destroyed, and the city was unprotected. As cupbearer, Nehemiah had access to the king. What did he ask for? Why did the king grant his request (Nehemiah 2:8)? From verses 8b and 18-20, we see that Nehemiah saw himself as God's servant, and that he could play an important part in God's plans. When and how have you played a part in God's plans?
3. Isaiah 46:9-11 and Job 42:2 tell us that God's purposes in the world will be accomplished. Except for Jesus, He does this through ordinary people with faith. Abraham was old, but had faith; Moses wasn't a confident speaker, but believed God; David was a shepherd boy, but trusted God; and Paul persecuted Christians, but repented and through faith and obedience launched the church. How does 2 Corinthians 12:9 change your perspective about putting your abilities to work in partnership with God?

4. In Matthew 6:9-10, Jesus teaches us to pray that God's Kingdom will come, and that God's will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven. Those two phrases have the same meaning. God's will won't always be done perfectly on Earth and yet God's purposes are being accomplished. As we “rise up” to partner with God, His purposes will fall into two categories. First are the general things, like obedience, that apply to everyone. Second are Kingdom tasks that fit our unique personality and talents. In your life, filled with daily obligations, how can you make sure your goals align with God's purposes?
5. Nehemiah was a man with exceptional integrity. As the king's cupbearer, in charge of protecting the king, he had to be immune to bribes and schemes. Nehemiah understood his time and what needed to be done. In Acts 13:36, we read that King David served God's purpose in his generation. To serve God's purpose is a worthy goal. What do you think are some of God's purposes for today? How can we do a better job explaining Christianity to people? How can we prepare ourselves to partner with God?

## OPTIONAL for further study:

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2 Corinthians 11:21-33 lists Paul's problems as he spread the gospel. If any of us faced that level of opposition, we would assume we hadn't heard God right, and needed to change direction. What do you think gave Paul the confidence to know he was doing God's will?

**PRAYER:** What is a challenge you are facing this week? How can we pray and support you?



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