

# HOW TO LEAD

A Study of the Book of Nehemiah

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

---

Are you a leader? Maybe you haven't thought of yourself as one, but leadership has been defined as influence—the ability to influence others towards a new future or a better way to live. Which means many without the title of “leader” are leaders, and some with the title are not. Nehemiah has been studied for centuries for insights on how to lead others. The book named after him in the Bible recounts God's faithfulness to His people despite their unfaithfulness, but also chronicles Nehemiah's thoughts and actions. Nehemiah built a wall and a city. You may be building a family, a team, a company, or a new dream, and God has wisdom for you within Nehemiah's journals.

00.  
00.  
00.  
00.  
00.  
00.

00.  
00.  
00.  
00.  
00.

00.  
00.  
00.

00.  
00.  
00.

# TABLE of CONTENTS



00 00 00 00

00 00 00



From the Senior Pastor .....	6
How to Use This Series Magazine .....	12
The Christian's Unfair Leadership Advantage .....	14
 <b>WEEK 1 VISION</b> .....	
Sermon Scripture & Notes .....	22
Life Group Discussion Guide .....	26
 <b>WEEK 2 CONVICTION</b> .....	
Sermon Scripture & Notes .....	42
Life Group Discussion Guide .....	46
 <b>WEEK 3 SERVANTHOOD</b> .....	
Sermon Scripture & Notes .....	58
Life Group Discussion Guide .....	62
 <b>WEEK 4 PERSEVERANCE</b> .....	
Sermon Scripture & Notes .....	72
Life Group Discussion Guide .....	76
 <b>WEEK 5 CREDIBILITY</b> .....	
Sermon Scripture & Notes .....	88
Life Group Discussion Guide .....	96
 <b>WEEK 6 TRANSFORMATION</b> .....	
Sermon Scripture & Notes .....	106
Life Group Discussion Guide .....	122
 <b>WEEK 7 RESOLVE</b> .....	
Sermon Scripture & Notes .....	136
Life Group Discussion Guide .....	140



## FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

Dear Mariners Community,

The biblical account of Nehemiah reminds us of God's faithfulness to His own, as we see God keeping His promises to bring His people back to the land He had promised them.

We also learn how God uses people to accomplish His purposes. Some even call Nehemiah the first leadership book ever written.

For centuries, people have studied the book of Nehemiah for insight from Nehemiah's journals. Nehemiah was not a prophet or a priest—but a marketplace leader—a governmental official who worked for a Persian king. He accomplished what many believed was impossible—the rebuilding of the wall surrounding Jerusalem, the repopulating of the city, and the renewal of joy in God's people.

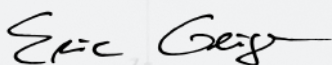
John Maxwell and others have defined leadership as influence. Which means not everyone with a title is a leader, and many are leaders without titles. Leadership being defined as influence means parents, youth soccer coaches, school teachers, tech entrepreneurs, civil servants, politicians, business owners, musicians, medical professionals, nonprofit leaders, counselors, construction foremen, restaurant managers, and the barista who sets the tone for a café all lead in some capacity, whether they realize it or not.

We will be inspired by the leadership fruit in Nehemiah's life, but we will also learn about the roots beneath the surface that produce the fruit. And this will be helpful and encouraging to you as you serve and influence others. Nehemiah was building a wall, then a city. You are building something—a family, a future, a company, a new dream.

This beautiful series magazine, created by our talented Creative Arts Volunteer Team, is designed to help you engage with the Scripture. It's filled with inspiring stories, photography, and artwork as well as additional resources for you to go deeper in your personal study of God's Word—including wisdom from key leaders in different areas of society and business who are followers of Jesus. Use it to take notes during the weekend messages, reflect on what God is teaching you, and dive deeper in community through your Life Group. I invite you to bring it with you each week and use it as a tool to grow in your walk with Jesus.

I look forward to walking through this rich and powerful text with you over the next seven weeks. I pray it encourages you deeply and inspires you to lean fully on Jesus, the One who faithfully leads and guides us in every season.

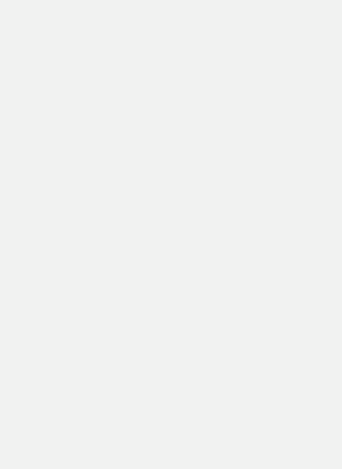
In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Geiger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric Geiger  
Senior Pastor

# VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTORS







00

00  
00  
00  
00  
00  
00

# FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

The book of Nehemiah is a powerful story of leadership, restoration, and unwavering faith. It invites us into the journey of a man who faces opposition yet responds with courage, prayer, and obedience to God's call to rebuild what had fallen apart.

But Nehemiah is not just about bricks and walls—it's about the heart of a people being drawn back to God. It reminds us that true transformation begins not only with what we do, but with who we are in Him. And through Jesus, who gave His life to restore what sin had broken, we now stand on a firm and finished foundation: loved, chosen, and secure.

Our prayer is that as you reflect on the book of Nehemiah through this magazine, you'll find fresh encouragement for your own calling. Each of us has one life on Earth, and we are designed to build up the Kingdom of God. May these creative pieces deepen your trust in God's strength, stir your faith to lead others with humility, and remind you that even in the process of rebuilding, God is always at work.

With gratitude,  
The Mariners Creative Arts Editorial Team

The background of the page is a light gray geometric pattern. It features a network of thin lines intersecting at various points, some of which are labeled with letters like 'v', 'd', 'k', 'b', 'e', 's', 'q', 'p', 'c', 'u', 'r', 'w', 't', and 'd'. These lines and points form a complex web of triangles and polygons, creating a technical or architectural feel. The main title is overlaid on this pattern.

# How to Use This Series Magazine

---

This series magazine was created for you. It's filled with resources, original artwork, stories, and creative written pieces to enhance your personal study of Nehemiah. It's a resource meant to travel. Bring it with you to weekend services to take notes and follow along with messages. Take it to your Life Group gathering to go deeper into God's Word with others. Use it in your own time with the Lord as you process the wisdom and teaching of each message and passage of Scripture. We pray it inspires and encourages you in your own walk with the Lord every day.



### SERMON NOTES

Each week there is space for you to take notes for the weekend message. It's a great way for you to follow along each week of the series and record how God is speaking to you through His Word.

### LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

These lessons are meant to be explored in the context of a Life Group. In Life Groups, we grow in our faith together and experience life as God intended—in community. We encourage you to join a Life Group and dive into each message with others during the week. Visit [marinerschurch.org/joinagroup](http://marinerschurch.org/joinagroup) to learn more.

### DEEPER STUDY

Each week, there are teaching resources designed to help you go deeper into the leadership lessons and truths from Nehemiah.

### CREATIVE ELEMENTS

At the end of each week's content, you'll find creative pieces, including original artwork, photography, personal stories, and creative writing, contributed by our amazing Creative Arts Volunteer Team. Each piece is inspired by the book of Nehemiah and its themes.



**JOIN A GROUP**  
Scan the QR code  
to learn more  
about ways you can  
grow in your faith  
with others!



# The Christian's Unfair Leadership Advantage

*from Eric Geiger*

"Unfair Advantage" is a term sometimes used among marketplace leaders to acknowledge a skill or attribute or discipline a company has that others do not yet have, that cannot be copied or bought. Christian leaders have an advantage because they never lead alone. They are counseled, comforted, and led by God's Spirit. And the advantage is unfair because it was not achieved by grit but received by God's grace.

## **Vision (burden and belief):**

Christians are well-equipped to hold burden and belief simultaneously because our faith recognizes both the pain of a broken world and the promise that God will make all things new.

## **Conviction (clarity and courage):**

Christians can receive wisdom and clarity from God who promises to give generously, and Christians have courage because the One who is within us is greater than the one in the world.

## INTERMINGLING ROOTS

Being shaped by burden *and* belief

Displaying clarity *and* courage

Thinking big *and* acting small

Fighting *and* trusting God is fighting for you

Growing in character *and* commitment *and* competence *and*...

Changing beliefs *and* behaviors

Living with restlessness *and* resting

## FRUIT

Vision

Conviction

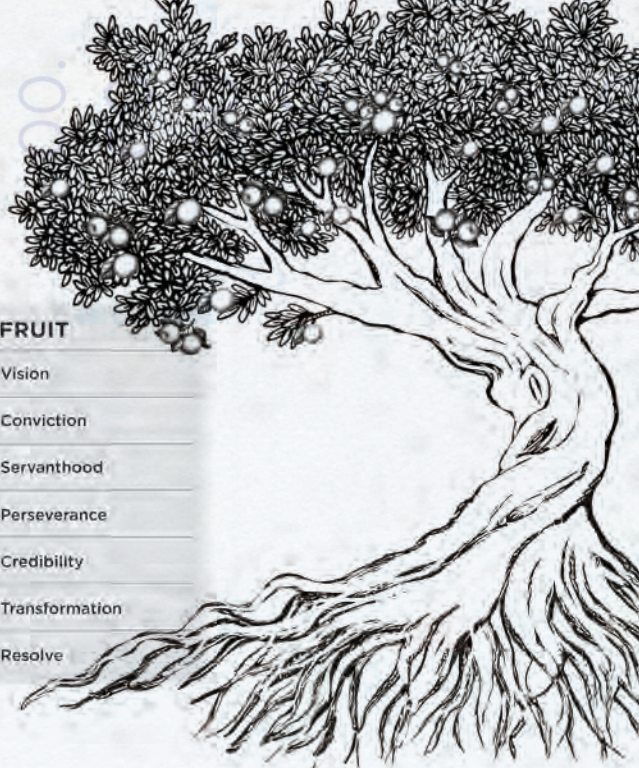
Servanthood

Perseverance

Credibility

Transformation

Resolve



### **Servanthood (thinking big and acting small):**

Christians can think big because our God is able to do more than we ask or imagine, and we act small because Jesus served us and gave us an identity as a servant, not merely our activity.

### **Perseverance (fighting and trusting God is fighting):**

Christians can persevere because God promises to preserve His people. We can endure through trials because we're held by God's power and promised that He works all things together for good for those who love Him.

### **Credibility (character, commitment, competence, capacity, and chemistry):**

Character is the most important attribute of credibility. Christians can and must grow in integrity because our Savior commands us to walk as He walked and He empowers us to do so by His Spirit. God is committed to developing the character of His children.

### **Transformation (changing beliefs and behaviors):**

Christians understand transformation because we've been transformed, from death to life, and are being transformed as we follow our Savior. We know that lasting change is often slow and comes through painful seasons of growth, impacting what we believe and how we live.

### **Resolve (restlessness and rest):**

Christians can live with holy restlessness because we're not satisfied with the status quo in a broken world, yet we can rest because our ultimate identity and security are found in Christ, not in our leadership outcomes. We can pre-decide to persevere because we know our labor in the Lord is never in vain.

The self-sufficient and eternal God lovingly creates a perfect creation with humanity as His crowning work. Falling for Satan's temptation, humanity rebels and sin enters the world bringing death, pain, and strife. Instead of giving up on humanity, God promises that from the womb of a woman will come the One who will crush Satan's head.

**CREATION  
AND FALL**

God pursues Abram (who is renamed Abraham), a man from an idol-worshiping family who has no children with his wife, and promises that he will be the father of many nations. God promises land to Abraham and assures him that all nations will be blessed through his offspring. God continues to be faithful to this family. He restates the promise to Abraham's son Isaac and grandson Jacob (who is renamed Israel). A famine strikes the promised land, so Jacob and the family move to Egypt where one of his sons, Joseph, is already there to provide for them.

**PROMISE AND  
A PEOPLE**

The family becomes a nation while living in Egypt, but also becomes enslaved to the Egyptians. God raises up Moses to lead His people to freedom. During a tenth plague, God strikes dead the firstborn son of everyone living in Egypt, but "passes over" Israel as they put the blood of lambs on their doorposts. After miraculously rescuing His people, God gives His people the law. He also instructs them to build a tabernacle and offer sacrifices so He may dwell among them.

**RESCUE  
AND LAW**

God brings His people, through their leader Joshua, into the promised land. When God's people worship the gods of the nations surrounding them, God disciplines them through the attacks of surrounding nations. God raises up judges (or rulers) to rescue His people and call them to repentance. They beg for a king to be like other nations, and God gives them Saul. God then raises up a new king, David, and promises that his kingdom will never end. The family that turned into a nation is now a kingdom. David's son, Solomon, builds a temple to replace the tabernacle.

**LAND AND  
KINGDOM**

2000 BC

1400 BC

1000 BC

▼ *Nehemiah Timeline*

722 BC

**NORTHERN  
KINGDOM  
FALLS**

2 Kings 17:5-6

605 BC

**FIRST DEPORTATION  
OF SOUTHERN  
KINGDOM TO  
BABYLON**

Daniel 1:1-7

586 BC

**FALL OF  
JERUSALEM  
AND TEMPLE  
TO BABYLON**

2 Kings 25:1-21

539 BC

**BABYLON  
FALLS TO  
CYRUS/PERSIA**

Daniel 5

Solomon takes foreign wives and allows their foreign gods to clutter the land. His son continues the line of rulers and the kingdom is divided into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah). Prophets confront the people but they persist in their idolatry. The Northern Kingdom falls to Assyria and the Southern Kingdom is carried away into Babylonian captivity. When they are freed, they return to a nation and kingdom far less glorious than before and are still unable to keep their promises.

## EXILE AND RETURN

600 BC

A descendant of Adam, Abraham, and David, Jesus is the One who crushes the head of Satan, will bless all nations, and reigns forever. Jesus, the God-Man, enters humanity through the womb of a virgin, perfectly obeys the law that we could never obey, dies as the once-and-for-all sacrifice for our sins, and rises from the dead, conquering Satan, sin, and death. He inaugurates His eternal Kingdom and secures salvation for His people.

## JESUS

AD

After His ascension to Heaven, Jesus sends the promised Holy Spirit and His disciples turn the world upside down preaching the good news of Jesus.

This good news is known as the gospel. In the midst of intense persecution, the gospel spreads, and Gentiles and Jews form a new people. Churches are planted in cities, and apostles write letters encouraging and instructing the people in the grace of Christ and their response to His grace.

## A NEW PEOPLE

AD 30

A time is coming when God's people—people from every tribe, tongue, and nation who have been rescued by Christ—will enjoy Him and His rule forever in perfect harmony. Satan will be crushed, the effects of sin will be reversed, and all things will be made new.

## A BETTER BEGINNING

538 BC

CYRUS ALLOWS EXILES TO RETURN AND BUILD TEMPLE (ZERUBBABEL LEADS). CITY BUILDING STOPPED

Ezra 1:1-4; Chapter 4

485 BC

EZRA LEADS MORE EXILES TO RETURN UNDER ARTAXERXES OF PERSIA

Ezra 7

445 BC

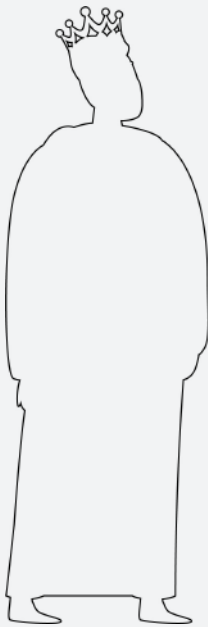
NEHEMIAH HEARS OF THE DISGRACE OF HIS PEOPLE

Nehemiah 1

444 BC

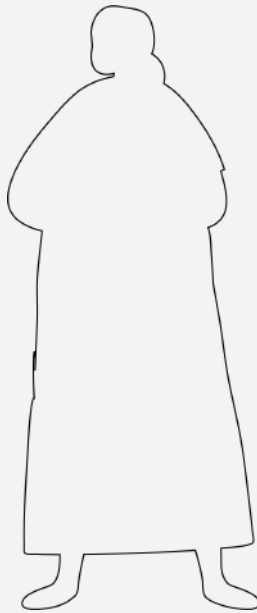
NEHEMIAH GOES TO JERUSALEM TO BUILD THE WALL IN 52 DAYS

Nehemiah 2



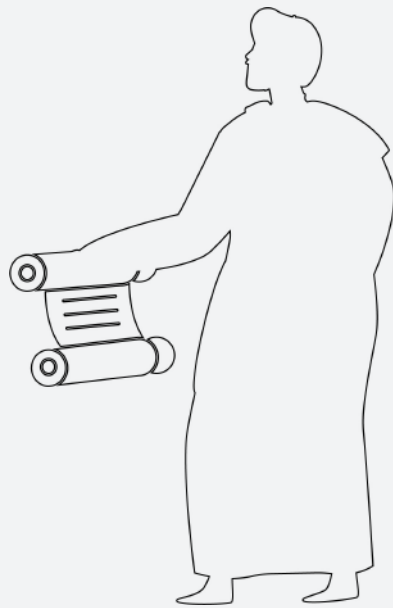
### **ARTAXERXES (THE KING)**

Artaxerxes I was the son of Xerxes/Ahasuerus—the king who made Esther his queen and stopped the Jewish people in Persia from being completely destroyed. Also, the son of the ripped character in the movie 300. According to the Greek historian Diodorus, he became king after killing his brother, who was in line to be king, after being told his brother was the one who killed his father. He played a crucial role in Nehemiah's mission to rebuild Jerusalem. He granted Nehemiah permission to return to Jerusalem, provided him with letters of safe passage, and supplied materials for the reconstruction of the city wall. God is willing and able to use a foreign ruler to fulfill His purposes for His people.



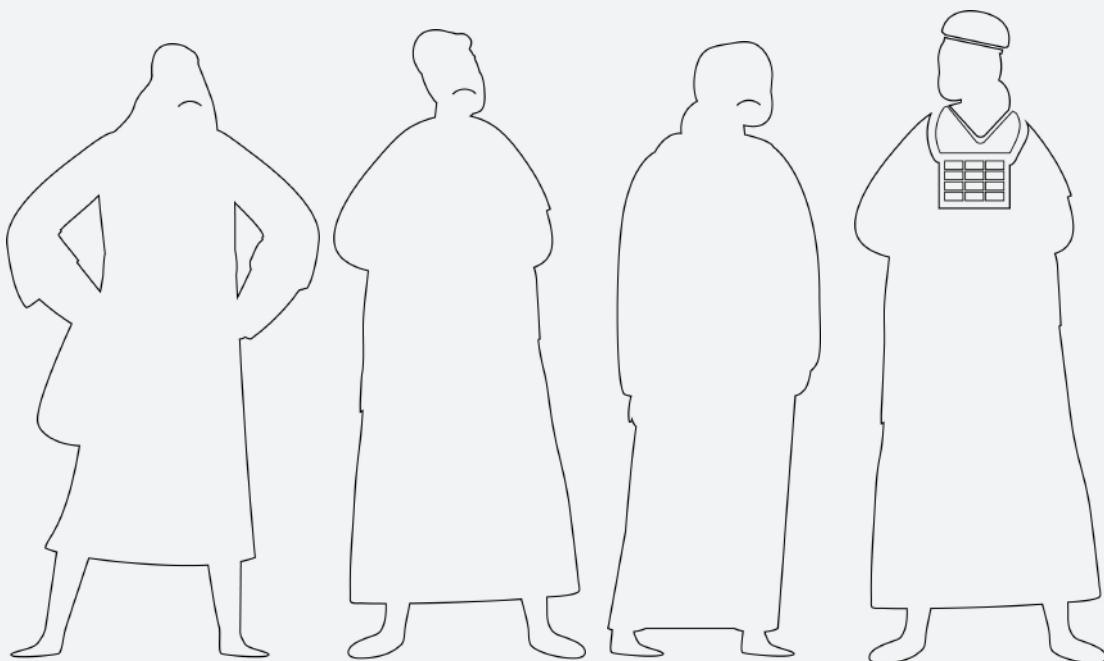
### **HANANI (THE BROTHER)**

Hanani was Nehemiah's brother and the one who first brought him the devastating news about Jerusalem's broken wall and vulnerable condition. His report deeply moved Nehemiah, prompting him to fast, pray, and ultimately seek permission from Artaxerxes to return and lead the rebuilding effort. Later, Nehemiah appointed Hanani, because he was faithful and trustworthy, as one of the leaders responsible for overseeing Jerusalem.



### **EZRA (THE SCRIBE AND PRIEST)**

Ezra was a priest and scribe who arrived in Jerusalem 13 years before Nehemiah, during the reign of Artaxerxes. He was a devoted teacher of the Law, leading a spiritual revival among the people by reading and explaining God's Word. Ezra partnered with Nehemiah in renewing the people's faith and commitment to God's commands, emphasizing the need for spiritual restoration not just physical rebuilding.



### **SANBALLAT (THE ENEMY)**

Sanballat was the governor of Samaria and a fierce opponent of Nehemiah's efforts to rebuild Jerusalem's wall. He led the external opposition, using mockery, threats, and political schemes to try to stop the work. He hated the thought of Jerusalem becoming prosperous less than 40 miles away from his territory.

### **TOBIAH (THE ENEMY)**

Though his name is Jewish, meaning "God is good," he saw an opportunity for power within the Ammonites, where he became an official. He had deep connections within Jerusalem's elite, marrying into influential Jewish families, allowing him to exert pressure on Nehemiah from within. He mocked the builders, conspired against Nehemiah, and later gained unauthorized access to a temple storeroom.

### **GESHEM (THE ENEMY)**

Geshem was an Arabian leader who joined Sanballat and Tobiah in opposing Nehemiah. He viewed Jerusalem's restoration as a threat to his economic and political influence. He used intimidation and false accusations to try to halt Nehemiah's work, even attempting to lure him into a trap.

### **ELIASHIB**

Eliashib was the high priest and initially played a key role in rebuilding the wall. However, he later compromised by forming alliances with Nehemiah's enemies, particularly Tobiah. Nehemiah's challenges were not only external.

# VISION

W E E K 0 1



## NEHEMIAH 1

# 1 The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:

### NEWS FROM JERUSALEM

During the month of Chislev in the twentieth year, when I was in the fortress city of Susa, <sup>2</sup> Hanani, one of my brothers, arrived with men from Judah, and I questioned them about Jerusalem and the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile. <sup>3</sup> They said to me, “The remnant in the province, who survived the exile, are in great trouble and disgrace. Jerusalem’s wall has been broken down, and its gates have been burned.”

### NEHEMIAH’S PRAYER

<sup>4</sup> When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of the heavens. <sup>5</sup> I said,

LORD, the God of the heavens, the great and awe-inspiring God who keeps his gracious covenant with those who love him and keep his commands, <sup>6</sup> let your eyes be open and your ears be attentive to hear your servant’s prayer that I now pray to you day and night for your servants, the Israelites. I confess the sins we have committed against you. Both I and my father’s family have sinned. <sup>7</sup> We have acted corruptly toward you and have not kept the commands, statutes, and ordinances you gave your servant Moses. <sup>8</sup> Please remember what you commanded your servant Moses: “If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples. <sup>9</sup> But if you return to me and carefully observe my commands, even though your exiles were banished to the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place where I chose to have my name dwell.” <sup>10</sup> They are your servants and your people. You redeemed them by your great power and strong hand. <sup>11</sup> Please, Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant and to that of your servants who delight to revere your name. Give your servant success today, and grant him compassion in the presence of this man.

At the time, I was the king’s cupbearer.

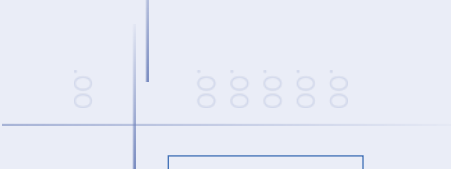
## SERMON NOTES

**BURDEN** *without* **BELIEF** = *Hopeless Leadership*

**BELIEF** *without* **BURDEN** = *Purposeless Leadership*

**BURDEN** *with* **BELIEF** = *Visionary Leadership*

	NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER (Nehemiah 1:5-11)	JESUS' MODEL PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)
<b><u>P</u>RAISE</b>	Lord, the God of the heavens, the great one awe-inspiring God	Our Father in heaven
<b><u>R</u>EPENT</b>	I confess sins we have committed against you	Forgive us our debts
<b><u>A</u>SK</b>	Please remember what you commanded your servant Moses	Your name honored as holy, Your kingdom come, your will be done. Give us today our daily bread
<b><u>Y</u>IELD</b>	Please, Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant	Deliver us from the evil one



# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

RHYTHM REMINDER



Prayer

LEAN IN

If you were assigned to rebuild something with no experience, what job would you *definitely* need a YouTube tutorial for? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

LOOK DOWN

**Read Nehemiah 1:4-11 (pg. 22).** How would you describe Nehemiah's heart based on what he prays to God in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

LOOK OUT

Who today is taking action like Nehemiah—praying, stepping up, and getting involved when things are falling apart? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

LOOK IN

What kinds of brokenness in the world make you feel burdened, like Nehemiah felt about Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WEEK 1

# IF I HAD MORE TIME



^  
**LISTEN TO  
THIS WEEK'S  
EPISODE  
HERE**

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

**JOHN MAXWELL**

“

*I want people who know me but don't know God to want to know God because they know me.*

“

*You can't buy, beg, or borrow vision. It has to come from within.*

**JOHN MAXWELL** is a teaching pastor and leadership expert who has sold more than 30 million books in 50 languages on leadership, team-building, and personal growth. He is the founder of The John Maxwell Company, EQUIP, and The John Maxwell Foundation.

*"Pursue the well-being of the city  
I have sent you to. Pray to the  
LORD on its behalf, for when it  
thrives, you will thrive."*

Jeremiah 29:7



# A VISION FOR OUTREACH

## WEEK 1: A CALL TO SEEK THE GOOD OF OUR CITIES

As followers of Jesus, we are sent into our cities to be His hands and feet—to bring light where there is darkness, hope where there is despair, and restoration where things are broken. Outreach is not a program—it's a calling on every believer to live out the gospel in word and deed.

At Mariners, we respond to this calling by caring for the Quartet of the Vulnerable—the widow, the orphan, the immigrant, and the poor (Zechariah 7:9-10). This biblical framework guides our Local Outreach, ensuring we serve in ways that reflect God's heart for justice, mercy, and compassion.



## HOW WE SERVE: THE QUARTET OF THE VULNERABLE

**Widow:** We care for those who have lost vital support systems—elderly in assisted living, single parents, families affected by incarceration, and military families navigating separation and sacrifice.

*"God in his holy dwelling is a father of the fatherless and a champion of widows."  
— Psalm 68:5*

**Orphan:** Through foster care support, mentorship, and unborn ministries, we stand with vulnerable children and families, offering tangible support that leads to strong families.

*"...Defend the rights of the fatherless. Plead the widow's cause."  
— Isaiah 1:17*

**Immigrant:** We welcome and walk alongside immigrants, refugees, and English language learners, helping them navigate new beginnings with dignity and belonging.

*"You are also to love the resident alien, since you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt."  
— Deuteronomy 10:19*

**Poor:** Through food pantries, thrift stores, homelessness initiatives, and special needs ministries, we meet essential needs while nurturing the spiritual and emotional well-being of those we serve.

*"...if you offer yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted one, then your light will shine in the darkness, and your night will be like noonday."  
— Isaiah 58:10*



## READY TO SERVE?

Scan the QR code and find a serve event that allows you to be part of God's story of redemption in our city.



*by Angelina Joseph*

# God Is on Our Side

With the world changing all around us in form, size, and shape, as followers of Christ, if our faith is not anchored in Him, we will be impacted and find ourselves spreading negativity around us. As a servant leader, Nehemiah trusted God and did not let the opposition, including mockery and discouragement, affect him and the people he was leading. He knew how to rally people to thrive and complete the building of the wall.

Nehemiah's opposition reminded me of one of our international medical outreaches I conducted in another country. Months earlier, we provided the requirements and received the approval to organize the outreach. But three days before the event, when we were in the country, a government official canceled the event without providing a reason.

The decision was disheartening as we did not expect the change at all. At one point, I felt like what we were trying to build in this context of outreach was being halted by the enemy.

Like Nehemiah, I prayed the way I knew how, asking God to overturn the plans of the enemy. Later that day, we discussed the matter with the team, so we prayed, and we expected God to work through the whole situation for His glory. After all, I said to myself, we were His servants and



were commissioned to go to the world and share the gospel. And we trusted that He would work for our good and the good of the people we were serving, regardless of the outcome and whether they decided to let us move forward with the event or not.

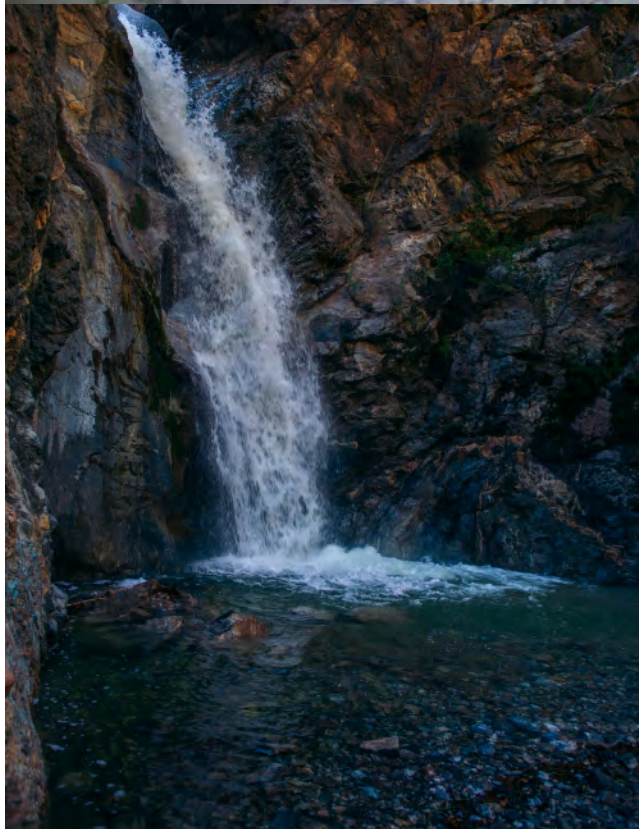
The day before the event, I was told the in-country medical board was holding its monthly meeting. I thought this could be my only opportunity to share the vision with them. I prayed for favor to meet at least one of the board members, and I did, putting emphasis on the positive impact the outreach would have on vulnerable people, especially women and children in the city. She attentively listened and promised to discuss the matter at the meeting.

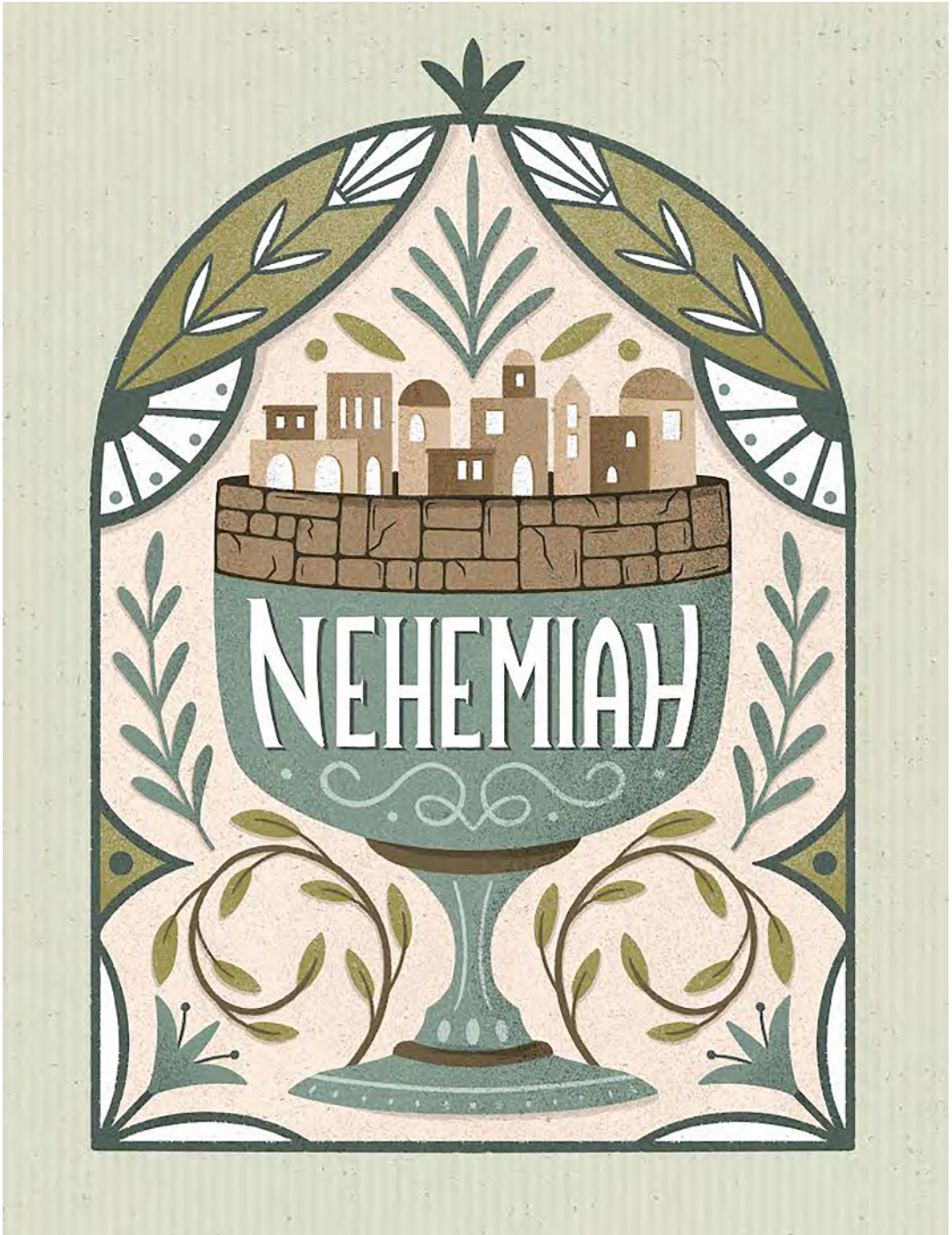
After the meeting, the coordinator called and informed me that the decision the board took to grant us a permit was in our favor. Praise God!

I couldn't keep this great news to myself, so I announced it to my team. Everybody's facial expression changed and became joyful. We were overjoyed and started shouting, "Hallelujah! Thank you, Lord," and hugging each other. It was such a great feeling as the pressure vanished.

Our clinic lasted five days, and every day we prayed together. Every volunteer was assigned a role that suited his or her skills and talents. The work was well done, and the outcome was amazing, as 260 people gave their lives to Christ and over 400 people came for prayer.

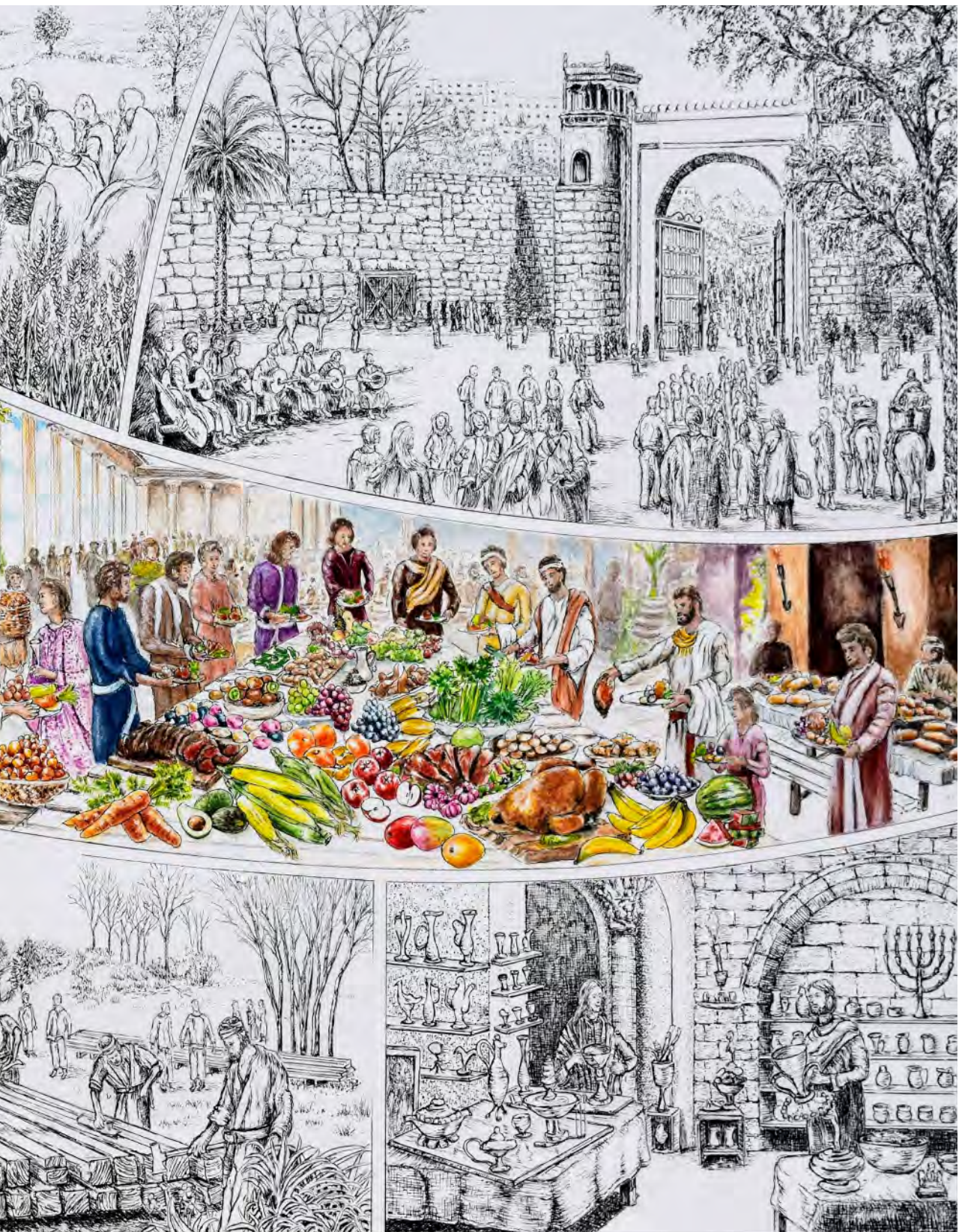
My friend, you may have walls that need to be rebuilt in your life, family, relationships, or work...remember this: if you build the foundation of your relationship with God first, He will fight for you. Take heart and do not get discouraged. The God of the universe makes the darkness disappear before your eyes. As the Scripture says in Romans 8:31, "...If God is for us, who is against us?"





*Cupbearer*  
Original Artwork by Ammie Gomez





Rebuilding the Gates and Walls of Nehemiah - Original Artwork by Bill Lee ▸



▼  
*Nehemiah's Prayer*

Original Artwork by Carla Baker

by Charlotte Baker

# The Light that Overcomes the Flames

*"I said to the king, 'Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?'"*  
(Nehemiah 2:3, ESV)

Into the light, questioned by fear,  
a miraculous King appears to hear.

He hears my prayers through the burning fire,  
that same fire that burned down the walls.

Yet despite the burdens, I still believe  
that there is lightness after the reprieve,

bursting through the cumulus clouds  
the light transforms through the burns.



