

**Getting The Burden  
Nehemiah - Part 1  
November 7-8, 2020  
Dr. Jeffrey Allen Love**

*"They replied at once, 'Yes, let's rebuild the wall!' so they began the good work."  
Nehemiah 2:18b (p.372)*

**1. What's going on around me?**

*"...I was at the fortress of Susa. Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah... They said to me, 'Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire.'"*

Nehemiah 1:1-3 (p.371)

• **My Burden Reveals God's Plan For Me.**

*"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."*

Ephesians 2:10 (p.896)

**2. What's going on inside me?**

*"When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. Pray: What's my part?"*

Nehemiah 1:4 (p.371)

*"But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep."*

Luke 19:41 (p.802)

**3. What does God want me to do?**

*"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 (p.371)

*"Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted..."*

Psalms 127:1 (p.473)

**Next Step:** \_\_\_\_\_ I will set aside time this week to prayerfully consider my answer to these 3 questions knowing that my burden reveals God's plan for me.



**ONE VOICE**

Discussion/Groups Guide from the Weekend Talk

From the Weekend Talk of November 7-8, 2020

***Nehemiah - Part 2: Getting the Burden***

**Life Groups use these questions** to go deeper into what we talked about this weekend. Dig into them so you will be ready for the discussion at your Life Group. If you are not in a Group, find out more at [alivechurch.com/groups](http://alivechurch.com/groups).

You can also use this guide to discuss the Talk with your family or friends.

### Conversation Starters

- Have you ever done a DIY restoration project or bought a fixer-upper house?
- Do you know anyone who is a visionary person?
  - What makes them visionary?
- Have you ever faced a faith-related challenge at work?
- When have you needed to get some serious direction from God?

### Quick Review

- Looking back at your Talk Notes, was there anything you heard in the service that stood out or maybe even confused you?

### Discussion Starters from the Weekend Talk

Refer to the Talk Notes and related Bible verses from this Weekend's Talk Notes.

The One Thing from the weekend Talk that Pastor Jeff led us through was this:

**"My Burden Reveals God's Plan For Me."**

- Read Ephesians 2:4-10 (p.896\*)
  - Nehemiah is preparing to do what God is leading him to do. IN Ephesians 2: 4-9 Paul sets up a progression of logic which culminates in verse 10, that we are *"created... to do the good things [God] planned for us long ago."*
    - What actions are described that God has done to prepare us for our "good things?"
    - What "good works" do you believe God has planned for you?

**Jeff raised three key questions we must carefully consider when we are seeking to understand our circumstances, our opportunities, and our ability to hear and discern God's plan for us.**

1. **What's going on around me?** (Read Nehemiah 1:1-3 (p.371\*))
  - Why is it important to be aware of what's going on around us?
  - What are some possible reactions Nehemiah could have had to his brother's news?
  - When have you had to be keenly aware of what's going on around you?
    - How can you learn to do this well?
    - Do you have people in your life who can tell you the truth about what's going on around you, like Nehemiah's brother did?
    - Are you that kind of person to others?
2. **What's going on inside me?** (Read Nehemiah 1:4-7 (p.371\*) and Luke 19:41 (p.802\*))
  - What was Nehemiah's initial reaction to the news about Jerusalem?

- How do you react to bad news?
  - Nehemiah knew that broken-down walls carry great significance for his people. They were vulnerable to attack and it represented neglect of the Israelites special relationship with God.
    - When have you felt vulnerable to attack (physical or spiritual)?
    - When have you experienced broken down protection?
  - Why did Jesus weep for Jerusalem?
    - What makes you weep? What keeps you up at night?
3. **What does God want me to do?** (Read Nehemiah 1:10-11 (p.371\*) and Psalm 127:1 (p.473))
- What does God want you to do?
    - How can you find out?
    - What burden do you have for something you sense God wants you to do? Or maybe you can talk about a time in the past when you felt that kind of burden?
  - When have you tried to “build the house” without God?
    - How did that go for you?

### Digging Deeper

As we consider Jeff’s Three Questions, it makes sense that we should pray regarding each of them. Here are some Bible passages that can help you turn each question into a prayer. Remember that one great way to turn scripture into prayer is to simply **READ** a verse (or portion of a verse), **RESPOND** in prayer to God about what you just read, **REPEAT** the process.

- **What’s going on around me?**
  - Colossians 4:2-6 (p.904\*)
- **What’s going on inside me?**
  - Philippians 4:6-9 (p.901\*)
  - Psalm 86:1-2 (p.453\*)
- **What does God want me to do?**
  - Psalm 143:6-10 (p.478\*)
  - 1 Chronicles 16:7-11 (p.321\*)

### Next Step

Next Step: \_\_\_ This week I will set aside time this week to prayerfully consider my answer to these 3 questions knowing that my burden reveals God’s plan for me.

### What’s Ahead

- **This week we continue our Talk Series, “Nehemiah,”** as we explore the extraordinary things God did through a man who was inspired by God with a Vision for a massive restoration project.
- **Gifts of Love** is an annual effort to help families in our area. Watch for details on how you can get involved.

- **Are you new to Alive Church?** Then come to Discover Alive on Sunday, December 6, at 12:30pm. We'll feed you lunch, provide free childcare, and help you learn more about who we are, where we are going, and how you can be a part of what God is doing at Alive Church! Use your Connection Card to let us know you want to come. Or send an email to [office@alivechurch.com](mailto:office@alivechurch.com) and tell us there.

*\* The Life Transformation Bible is the New Living Translation of the Bible, including many useful tools to help you better understand God's Word, including our own Alive Church Life Transformation Discipleship Plan. They are available FREE. Let us know if you'd like to have one.*