

**Planning**  
**Nehemiah - Part 2**  
**November 14-15, 2020**  
**Dr. Jeffrey Allen Love**

*"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."*                      Philippians 4:19 (p.901)

**1. God Provides For His Plan.**

• **Wait for God's timing.**

*"Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan...I had never before appeared sad in his presence. So the king asked me, 'Why are you looking so sad?'...Then I was terrified..."*    Nehemiah 2:1-2 (p.371)

*"...Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today..."*  
Exodus 14:13 (p.54)

*"Be still, and know that I am God!"*                      Psalm 46:10 (p.434)

**2. Ask boldly.**

*"The king asked, 'Well, how can I help you?' With a prayer to the God of heaven, I replied, 'If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried.'"    Nehemiah 2:4-5 (p.371)*

*"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God..."*  
Hebrews 4:16 (p.922)

**Send me** - Nehemiah 2:4-6 (p.371)     **Give me** - Nehemiah 2:7-10 (p.371)

*"(Jesus)...I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth...Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*                      Matthew 28:18-20 (p.760)

**3. Fully commit.**

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

*"...Be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless."*     1 Corinthians 15:58 (p.880)

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

**Next Step:** \_\_\_\_\_ I will spend time this week prayerfully identifying which stage I am at with the burden God has placed on my heart.



# Discussion/Groups Guide from the Weekend Talk

From the Weekend Talk of November 14-15, 2020

## ***Nehemiah - Part 2: Planning***

**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 Weekend Talk with your family or friends.

### Conversation Starters

- Were you ever intimidated when you had to talk with your boss or teacher or principal? Why were you intimidated?
- Talk about a time when you had great plans to do or to accomplish something, but you just didn't have the resources to get it done.
- Have you ever struggled with the idea of asking for help? Why is this sometimes hard to do?

### 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 wants us to remember is:

**"God Provides For His Plan."**

- When have you experienced God providing for His plan in your life (or family or church or business, etc.)

**Jeff encouraged us to walk through three stages of pursuing God's plan:**

**1. Wait for God's timing.**

(Read Nehemiah 2:1-2 (p.371\*); Exodus 14:9-14 (p.54\*) and Psalm 46:10 (p.434\*))

- When have you had to wait for just the right time to do something?
- When have you picked the **WRONG** time to do something?
- How long did Nehemiah wait between hearing of the broken down walls of Jerusalem in Nehemiah 1:1-4 and approaching the king? Why do you think he waited so long?
- In the Exodus passage, what was causing the Israelites to want to "jump the gun" and not wait on God?
- Do you find it hard to stand, watch, and be still when it comes to following God's leadership?

**2. Ask Boldly.** (Read Nehemiah 2:4-5 (p.371\*) and Hebrews 4:16 (p.922\*) and Matthew 28:18-20 (p.760))

- What was so bold about Nehemiah's requests to King Artaxerxes?
- Why was it risky for him to "look sad" in the presence of the king?
- How bold do you feel when you approach God? (See also the teaching and notes from Week 2 of our "Hold Nothing Back" Series from the weekend of October 31 – November 1. That Talk was called: "Be Bold.")

- What significance does the Great Commission have for why we can proceed with boldness? Under whose authority do we serve?
- **Two kinds of “asks” from Nehemiah:**
  - **Send me.** (Nehemiah 2:4-6 (p.371\*))
    - When have you asked God to “send you” to do something?
      - Talk about what it looks like to be bold in asking God to SEND you.
  - **Give me.** (Nehemiah 2:7-10 (p.371\*))
    - When have you asked God to “give you” something you believe you need?
      - What does it mean to be bold in asking God to GIVE?
- 3. **Fully commit.** (Read Nehemiah 2:17-18b (p.372\*) and 1 Corinthians 15:58 (p.880\*))
  - To what are you fully committed?
  - How enthusiastic are you about what God is leading you to do and how he is leading you to live?

### Digging Deeper

Let’s take a look at what Nehemiah did to prepare the people for his challenge to rebuild the wall, as well as the immediate opposition he faced in Nehemiah 2:11-20 (p.372\*).

- What did Nehemiah do once he had the king’s permission and provision for the project?
- Why do you think he did his initial planning in secret?
- What did he do once he decided to “go public” with his vision?
  - What did he say to make his case to the city leaders?
  - What can we learn from his process of planning and communication?
- After the elders said, “let’s rebuild the wall!” (Nehemiah 2:18b) Nehemiah faced immediate opposition.
  - When have you faced opposition to a plan you knew was the right plan?
  - On what grounds did Nehemiah dismiss the opposition’s contemptuous scoffing?

### Next Step

**My Next Step:** \_\_\_\_ I will spend time this week prayerfully identifying which stage I am at with the burden God has placed on my heart.

### 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 through a burden that led him to 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.