

REAL LEADERSHIP

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1. Pray for leadership development at Journey Christian Church and for more church planters.
2. Pray for and identify a Men's and Women's Ministry directors.
3. Identify leadership opportunities at Journey and pray for men and women to fill them.
4. Develop leadership training program.

THE NEHEMIAH STORY

THEME: The called leader courageously collaborates despite criticism so that he/she can celebrate with His Creator.

I. _____

PRAYERFULLY DISCERN YOUR—FOCUS

When you are trying to discern your call look around and see what breaks the heart of God and breaks your heart as well. That may be your call.

Nehemiah 1:2-4 Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. ³ They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." ⁴ When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Nehemiah 6:15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days.

II. _____

Nehemiah 2:1-4 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, ² 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, ³ but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴ The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven,

III.

INVITE OTHERS TO THE MISSION

Nehemiah 2:17-18 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." ¹⁸ 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.

IV.

EXPECT OPPOSITION

Nehemiah 4:7-9 But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. ⁸ They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. ⁹ But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

"We conquer, not in any brilliant fashion—we conquer by continuing."

(Bible Personalities, Warren W. Wiersbe, 134)

V.

THE VICTORIES

Nehemiah 12:27 At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres.

Nehemiah 8:10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

LIVE FOR AN AUDIENCE OF ONE—THE GREATEST VICTORY IS TO PLEASE GOD.

Nehemiah 13:31b

. . . Remember me with favor, my God.