



# DO SOMETHING GREAT.

## WEEK 03 A GREAT ASK

**READ:** NEHEMIAH 2:1-8; PSALM 4

### THINK

We've seen Nehemiah do two things so far. He has felt a burden for his city and has prayed for his city. These two things are essential for what comes next. Asking. Nehemiah, who had just been appointed cupbearer, had to ask the king of Persia to leave and go rebuild his city's walls. Can you imagine what Nehemiah was going through at this time? King Artaxerxes even makes note of how sad Nehemiah looked. And what we know of Nehemiah is how prayerful he was. He devoted his life to praying to God in lengths at a time. But, here we see a momentary prayer, "So I prayed to the God of heaven." At this moment Nehemiah had his opportunity. He knew the risk of asking such a big question, but he knew he had to obey. The city that he loved and the people he cared for were too important to him and to God. To Nehemiah, though, it was worth the risk to ask, and he knew he had to trust God.

Throughout this entire process, we see God's will working in the life of Nehemiah. Though God laid the foundation for the work needed, He still used Nehemiah in doing the work. Throughout history we see the sovereignty of God at work. When He decrees something it happens. How it happens, though, is through us. God, in His all powerful, all encompassing will, still uses us. How incredible is that? Just as He used Nehemiah to act, He also uses us. But, this only happens if we put our complete trust in God and submit ourselves to His will. If we try to act on our own strength, in our timing, with our own motives, we will fail. It is only through God that we receive not only the courage to ask, but the strength to act.

### PRAY

As we pray through a different psalm each week, we will specifically focus our prayers in three areas: Our City, Our Church, and My Role. This week, we will be using Psalm 4 to guide our prayer time. Feel free to pray the psalm directly back to the Lord, modifying words or phrases as you feel led, or simply use the following prayer prompts, adding any specific requests the Lord has placed on your heart.

#### OUR CITY

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Pray that our city will actively seek to do the will of God. Boldly ask God to make His will known and that we would trust in Him for guidance.

#### OUR CHURCH

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Pray that our church will find ways to engage our city and care deeply for it. Pray that the Lord would shine his face upon us.

#### MY ROLE

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Pray for opportunities to use your gifts to bless our community. Pray that the Lord will give you peace about doing His work.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*This week, the questions are moving from "Personal Reflection" questions to "Discussion" questions.*

*The hope is that you would go through these questions personally  
and then use them as a foundation for discussion in your City Group gathering.*

Have you ever had to ask something big of someone? What was it? How did they respond?

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Coming before the Lord in prayer like Nehemiah is vital in doing God's will. How often do you pray for God's will to be done in your life? Share a recent example if you feel comfortable doing so.

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Have you ever felt that God's will was too big for you to undertake? How did you react?

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God has given us at RISE a clear calling to saturate our city with the Gospel. How does this calling play out in your life? What action(s) do you feel the Lord calling you to?

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We have seen how a prayerful life plays a big part in knowing the role that God has appointed us to. Just as Nehemiah said a quick prayer before making his request to the king, how can we use his example in our everyday life?

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Nehemiah has shown us many examples of trusting God's will. He waited four months after hearing about Jerusalem before he had the opportunity to ask the king to return. What does this reveal about Nehemiah's character? His attitude toward authority?

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Have you ever had to wait for the right moment? Do you wait well?

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Read Psalm 4 as a group. Did the Lord bring up anything during your prayer time this week you would like to share? Then, spend some time as a community praying for our city and our church along with any other specific prayer requests for your group.

## GOING DEEPER

In the Jewish Bible, Nehemiah is joined with the book of Ezra, as they are both written by the same author. For additional context and to expand your study time this week, you may choose to read through Ezra 3:1-13. (We will plan to finish the entire book of Ezra as well throughout this series.)