



DO SOMETHING GREAT.

WEEK 04 A GREAT MISSION

READ: NEHEMIAH 2:9-20; PSALM 46

THINK

As we see at the end of Nehemiah 2, Nehemiah received King Artaxerxes’ permission to go to Judah to begin the rebuilding of the wall in Jerusalem. At first, he kept God’s mission a secret for his own protection against his opposers. After inspecting the destroyed wall, he proclaimed to the Jews, priests, nobles, officials, and others about God’s vision for Jerusalem. He also included that the king was in agreement with him. Many proclaimed that they would rise up, build, and strengthen themselves for this job (Nehemiah 2:18). However, he did not have everyone on his side. There were three men who ridiculed Nehemiah for this mission and called it a rebellion against the king. Although Nehemiah was ridiculed for following God’s vision, he still obeyed.

Have you had a moment where God called you to do something great, but you were afraid of rejection from others? This week, we begin our campaign, Rise Together, to fund a building our church can call home. God is calling us to set our place in the heart of our city. Nehemiah is a great example for us to follow because he had compassion for the people of Jerusalem and knew he needed to step in and do something. He listened to the voice of God, and God took care of him throughout His plan for Nehemiah. He was bold to share what God had called him to do, and the majority of the people of Jerusalem were in agreement.

As a church, we must listen to God’s call for His sons and daughters to actively engage in this world by sharing the Gospel. God has a plan for our church, a plan to prosper us and give us a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). Once we learn to listen to His voice, He will use us in mighty ways, calling us to greater missions that will transform our lives and our city.

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 46 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

Pray that our city comes to stand on the firm foundation of God, recognizing His sovereignty as God of the universe.

OUR CHURCH

Pray for our church to keep God at the forefront, leaning into His plan for Rise City Church.

MY ROLE

Pray that you may listen to the Holy Spirit as He prepares you for God’s plan in your life. Pray that you will rely on God’s strength in times of trouble.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why did Nehemiah keep his inspection process a secret, rather than sharing his vision immediately?

Why do you think Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem refused to follow Nehemiah's plan? When are you most tempted to resist the plans and leadership of others?

Was there ever a time when you rejected God's voice in your life? Looking back, what was the outcome?

Have you ever specifically listened to God's voice and followed His call? What happened?

Have you ever been mocked for your obedience to the Lord?

How do you feel God calling you to participate in the Rise Together Campaign?

What are you most excited to see God do in our church? In our city?

Read Psalm 46 as a group. Then, pray together for our city, the campaign, and for our church to be bold and active in sharing the Gospel in our community.

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 4. (We will plan to finish the entire book of Ezra as well throughout this series.)