



# DO SOMETHING GREAT.

## WEEK 04 GREAT TOGETHER

**READ: NEHEMIAH 3, PSALM 24**

### THINK

“It’s too much!” I hear my seven year old son whining these words frequently, when he is called by my wife or myself to clean up the disaster that his room has become. Legos, Pokémon cards, stuffed animals, underwear . . . everything is spread all over the place without any rhyme or reason. As you look at his face, you can see that he is absolutely overwhelmed. As soon as I offer him to help him, though, he gets to the task.

Knowing that we are not alone with the burdens of this chaotic world can do amazing things to our motivation. It’s how God designed us. We are not called to live life on our own! We are not even called to clean up our own messes alone.

Nehemiah models the wisdom of God, as he is calling the Israelites in Jerusalem to work together in rebuilding the wall. It was utterly destroyed, because Israel had rebelled against God to the point of intense consequence. Most people, even the priests, were now cleaning up the cobble and rebuilding the ruins in a specific area until that area was completely done. Whoever was living at the gates was cleaning and building the wall close to his own house.

While this is logistically the best idea, it also carries deeper meaning: The people were building the wall at their own houses, but they inevitably would have to clean out their neighbor’s yard to get the job completed. Also, every stone picked up and built into the wall affected the security of the whole city! Even the houses in the middle. And those people were building as well, which meant they had to leave their homes every day to get to their job sites. This motivated everyone to work together. If I know that someone is taking care of my mess, I am more motivated to take care of someone else’s mess as well! Grace has that effect on us.

This (just like almost everything in the Old Testament) points to Jesus and the Gospel. In Jesus, God became our neighbor and went far out of His own way in order to clean up the mess that

humanity had made out of their own lives and the world. He clothed himself with fallen human nature and rebuilt it within His life, death, and resurrection. And He did not relent until the work was finished!

If we let this reality sink in, it can motivate us deeply to do the same for the people around us. It can move us to obey His call and, “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). As the church, we not only work together because it’s nice or it’s the right thing to do. We clean up each other’s messes through speaking truth in love and through serving one another, so that the gospel can reach hearts in a deeper way! Saturated with the gospel, we go far out of our own way to pick up the ruins of this fallen world.

### 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 24 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 the King of Glory, Jesus Christ, would be recognized in all kinds of ways by the people in this city, and don’t hesitate to include governing authorities in that prayer.

#### OUR CHURCH

Pray for a deeper understanding of the Lord “Mighty in Battle.” That God may deepen our trust in Him throughout all kinds of circumstances.

#### MY ROLE

Pray that you would be a person who would help establish a generation that seeks the Lord, both in our church family and in the legacy of your own family.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

There is spiritual wisdom in cleaning up your neighbor's yard. How could we as a church/City Group apply this wisdom in a very practical way?

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Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers to start the work. This is the quality of a leader. Do you feel God's call to be Eliashib in a certain area of God's work in this City? Or to be a brother/sister and follow someone's leading?

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In our culture, oftentimes what is lacking in God's work is focus. We are so used to multiple options and data overload, that we quickly lose interest in something. Are you experiencing this in your life? What would long term focus toward our City look like for you? What sacrifices might you have to make to achieve it?

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About the "Nobles of the City of Tekoa," one translation reads that they, "did not put their necks to the work of the LORD" (Nehemiah 3:5). Are there areas in the work of Christ in this city, where you find yourself feeling more like a noble, refusing to do the work yourself? Why or why not?

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Are you currently overwhelmed with the ruins of your life? Maybe someone else's? Share with your group.

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Read Psalm 24 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 5. (We will plan to finish the entire book of Ezra as well throughout this series.)