

BLUEPRINTS

FOR A REBUILDING YEAR

WEEK 2 - GROUP STUDY

Faith requires risk. Unless we step out, we cannot invite God to begin rebuilding. Nehemiah shows us how to step into where God is leading next.

CONNECT

- **What is one of the highest risk things you have done? Share a story.**

CONSIDER

- **Watch Group Video - Session 2: A Bold Vision For A Better Tomorrow**
(mynorthside.com/blueprints)
- **What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon, devotions, or video this week?**

CHRIST

Read Nehemiah 2:1-8 as a group.

- Nehemiah was a cupbearer (1:11), and this means he was a highly placed political official tasting everything that went before the king. In other words, the king would have had a deep trust in Nehemiah to appoint him to this role. Sometimes God places us right where we need to be in order to accomplish what He has put in our hearts to do. **How have you seen God place people in various positions to help grow and serve others? What positions has God placed you in to have influence and impact for Him?**
- Nehemiah 1:1 and 2:1 set up a time frame (months of Chisleu and Nisan) of about 4 months in between the news of Jerusalem and Nehemiah's conversation with the King. Nehemiah was faithful, patient, and willing to wait for God's timing. **Read the following passages: Ecclesiastes 3:11-14, Proverbs 16:3, Isaiah 55:8-9, Jeremiah 29:11-12, Colossians 1:16-17, and 2 Peter 3:8-9. What does it mean to trust God's timing? Write down your group's answers. How have you experienced this in your own faith story?**
- King Artaxerxes had previously ordered a stop to rebuild Jerusalem (Ezra 4:21-22) and could have easily executed Nehemiah for speaking up. Nehemiah could have continued to live his life at the palace but decided to take a bold risk. Faith always requires risk. If we avoid the risk, we may miss an opportunity to be used by God. **What do you learn about Nehemiah's character and wisdom from his encounter with the king? Why is that often**

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right before we step out in faith that we can get hit so hard by fear? How have you felt the temptation to “stay at the palace” when it comes to taking steps of faith?

Read Nehemiah 2:9-20 as a group.

- Nehemiah takes a step of faith, receives God’s favor, gains all he requests, and immediately runs into opposition (v.10). **Have you ever tried to do something risky, on faith, and it got harder, not easier, as you progressed?**
- Nehemiah makes one of the wisest leadership decisions. He surrounds himself with a small group of trusted people (v.11) and then spends time assessing the situation before acting. **Who are your go-to people for godly wisdom? How can our group become a better place to pray and encourage one another?**
- Nehemiah talks with the Israelite leaders and even his opposition. In both cases, he has the authority of the king but doesn’t play that card. Instead, he speaks of God’s favor and authority (v.18,20). **What does this say about the faith of Nehemiah? How can you be intentional about acknowledging God’s presence and authority in your life?**
- Several miles of wall roughly 12 feet high and wide and various city gates were in ruins. Nehemiah sees the work to be done and realizes that it is going to take everybody to rebuild the walls (v.18). Jesus said it best, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” Nehemiah was called to build the walls, and we have been called to the work of God’s Kingdom. Just like Nehemiah, the work of the Kingdom will take everybody. **Read the following passages: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Matthew 28:18-20, Colossians 1:28, and Hebrews 10:24-25. What do you learn about our calling to Kingdom work? Write down your group’s answers.**
- **Is there an area of your life that you need to let God strengthen or rebuild? Is there an area of your life where you need courage or boldness? As a group, how can we help?**

CALLING

- **Risk or Rebuild?** Both are essential aspects of spiritual growth. One requires boldness and the other humility. Both are faith steps allowing God to do something in and through you. **Right now, is God prompting you to take a faith risk? Right now, is God prompting you to allow Him to rebuild or strengthen an area of your life?** This week, pray for boldness to step out in faith or for humility to allow God to rebuild.

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- **Culture Index Survey:** In preparation for Session 3's discussion, take a moment this week to complete the Cultural Index Survey at mynorthside.com/blueprints.
- **Rebuilding Year Daily Devotions:** Spend 15 minutes each day with the daily devotions from this study guide. Devotions can be found through the Northside App, texting JOINGOD to 81411, or mynorthside.com/blueprints.
- **Memorize:** *Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.* - **Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)**
- **Further Study:** Read Nehemiah 3 in preparation for Session 3.