

# IT'S TIME FOR THE CITY TO GROW

Nehemiah II

1. When facing challenges and changes, we need to **TRUST** God's **SOVEREIGNTY**. (v.1; Leviticus 16:8; Joshua 18:8-10; Isaiah 45:7-9; Jonah 1:7; Matthew 10:29-31; Proverbs 3:5-6, 16:9,33, 19:21; Job 42:2; Romans 8:28, 9:21)
2. When facing challenges and changes, may we be **WILLING** to **STEP UP** and walk them out. (vv.1-2; Ruth 1:16; 1 Samuel 17:32; Nehemiah 2:5; Esther 4:16; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 9:37-38; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Philippians 3:17, 4:9; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7; 1 Peter 2:21, 5:2-3)
3. God can mightily use those who think they are **INSIGNIFICANT** and have nothing to **OFFER**. (vv.4,7; Exodus 3:11; 4:1,10; Judges 3:12-30, 6:15; 1 Samuel 9:21; Esther 2:5-7; Psalm 68:27; Jeremiah 1:6-8; Micah 5:2; Haggai 2:3-7; Zechariah 4:10)
4. In fact, our position and rank on the ladder of status and hierarchy **DOES NOT MATTER**. (vv.9,17; Ecclesiastes 2:11; Matthew 16:26; Mark 9:35, 10:43-44; 1 Corinthians 1:20,26-29; Galatians 3:28; Philippians 2:3)
5. There is work to be done on the **INSIDE**, and there is work to be done on the **OUTSIDE**. (vv.12,16; John 4:24; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; Ephesians 2:21-22, 4:11-13; 1 Peter 2:5; Matthew 12:34)
6. God often brings the '**SECULAR**' and the '**SACRED**' together to accomplish great things. (vv.23,24; Genesis 39:4; Exodus 2:10; Esther 2:17; Nehemiah 1:11; Daniel 1:4,17; Acts 18:3; Colossians 4:5)



## **Taking it further to help you THRIVE...**

THRIVE Groups are where life and growth take place. We don't want to just say "See you next week" as we leave each Sunday - we want to connect!  
For more info on joining a THRIVE Group, visit [thrivekg.org/thrive-groups](http://thrivekg.org/thrive-groups).

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, confused, or edified you?
2. Why was it important that Jerusalem's population grow? How was it decided where the people would live? Why would people not want to live in Jerusalem? What would be lucrative about remaining in the suburbs and rural areas?
3. On Sunday we discussed some men and women in the Bible who volunteered / stepped up, and most of them stepped out into some very difficult and challenging circumstances. Which one resonates the most with you? Why? What can you learn from him/her?
4. When you hear about a need at home, at church, at school, at work, in the community, etc., what makes volunteering difficult? Would you rather volunteer for something or be 'voluntold'? Why?
5. The small tribe of Benjamin was a big part of God's work in rebuilding the city of Jerusalem, showing that God can take what seems small and use it mightily. (We talked about some men in the Bible who felt less-than...) In what ways do you struggle with feeling insignificant and incapable? What is God teaching you?
6. What are some examples in Scripture where God's people actively engaged in 'the world'? What do the words 'secular' and 'sacred' mean? How can we serve to merge the 'secular' and the 'sacred' in ways that will honor God and represent/magnify Christ in the world?