



Life Group
Sermon Guide Questions
14 JUNE 2026

UNION CHURCH OF MANILA

A People Renewed

Renewed for Participation

Nehemiah 2



Read Nehemiah 2.

1. Look at verses 1-4. Why was Nehemiah "very much afraid" when the king noticed his sadness? What does his immediate reaction in verse 4 teach us about remaining spiritually nimble in the unscripted moments of our lives?
2. The sermon talked about the "slingshot prayer." How does knowing that God is with us (the "shepherding hand") change how we handle unexpected interactions or defensive situations at work, in the city, or at home?
3. The sermon highlighted the Hebrew word *sabar*, which means not only to scrutinize carefully but also to wait with expectant hope. Why is it necessary to honestly assess our ruins (marrying intense realism with faith) before we can begin rebuilding them?
4. The sermon challenged us to run a "spiritual audit" on our own souls. What is an area of "ruin" (e.g., a broken relationship, a silent struggle, a difficult environment) that you need the courage to honestly assess now?

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5. Look at verse 17. Nehemiah says they must rebuild so they will no longer suffer "derision" (herpah). How does understanding this word as a loss of covenantal dignity or "losing face" change how we view the purpose of their rebuilding project?

6. In verses 17-18, Nehemiah shifts his language from "I" to "We," and in chapter 3, we see people from all walks of life (perfumers, goldsmiths, daughters) building the wall together. How does this challenge the idea that ministry and renewal are only for church "professionals"?

7. The sermon concluded by comparing Nehemiah leaving the safety of the Persian palace to Jesus leaving the ultimate high-rise. How does knowing that Jesus "took the elevator down" to absorb our ultimate shame and restore our dignity empower you to participate in God's renewing work today?

