

5-DAY *Devotional Guide*



HOPE RISES FROM THE RUINS

Day 1: God Meets Us in the Ruins

Read: Nehemiah 1:1–4

Nehemiah's story begins with news of a city in ruins. The brokenness was real, and the people's hardship could not be ignored. Yet the ruins were not beyond God's reach. God was already at work before the wall was rebuilt—stirring concern, forming courage, and planting the first seeds of renewal.

We all face places that feel damaged or unfinished: a strained relationship, a painful loss, a disappointment, or a hope that seems to have collapsed. God does not ask us to pretend those things are fine. He meets us there and reminds us that brokenness is not the end of the story.

Reflect: Where do you need to remember that God can meet you in the middle of what feels broken?

Pray: God, meet me in the places I cannot fix on my own. Help me trust that the ruins are not the end of the story. Plant hope in me as You begin Your work. Amen.

Practice: Name one area of your life that feels broken or unresolved. Offer it honestly to God in prayer.

Day 2: A Burden Can Be the Beginning

Read: Nehemiah 1:1

Nehemiah received troubling news, but he did not rush into action. A God-given burden does not always require an immediate response. Sometimes it calls for patience, prayer, and preparation.

We may want to fix everything as soon as we see what is wrong. But renewal often begins before anything around us changes. God may first be doing something within us—shaping our motives, strengthening our faith, and helping us understand the need before we respond.

Reflect: Is there a concern you feel called to carry patiently before deciding what to do?

Pray: God, give me wisdom to know when to act and when to wait. Prepare my heart, and help me trust Your timing. Amen.

Practice: Spend a few quiet minutes with God before taking action on a concern that weighs on you.

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Day 3: Be Willing to Ask

Read: Nehemiah 1:2

Nehemiah did not turn away from the situation. He asked for news. His willingness to ask opened the door to understanding what had happened and how deeply the people were suffering.

Renewal begins when concern becomes more important than comfort. Asking can be difficult because the answer may unsettle us. We may learn about pain we would rather avoid or needs that require our attention. But honest questions help us see people—and situations—as they truly are.

Reflect: What question have you been avoiding because you fear the answer?

Pray: God, give me the courage to ask, listen, and care. Keep me from choosing comfort over compassion. Amen.

Practice: Reach out to someone you care about and ask how they are really doing. Make room to listen without rushing to solve the problem.

Day 4: Face the Truth With Faith

Read: Nehemiah 1:3

The report Nehemiah received was painful. Jerusalem's walls were broken, and its people were in distress. Nehemiah did not deny the damage or soften the truth. Faith does not require us to pretend everything is well. Faith helps us face what is broken while refusing to believe that brokenness gets the final word.

Naming the truth can be the first step toward healing. God can meet us in honest conversations, difficult decisions, and realities we would rather avoid. We can face the truth because we do not face it alone.

Reflect: What truth do you need to acknowledge before you can move toward renewal?

Pray: God, help me see clearly and respond faithfully. Give me courage to face what is broken and hope to believe You can bring restoration. Amen.

Practice: Write down one difficult truth you need to face. Beside it, write: "God is with me here."

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Hilton Head Island
community church

Day 5: Let Grief Become a Prayer

Read: Nehemiah 1:4

When Nehemiah heard the news, he wept, mourned, fasted, and prayed. He allowed himself to feel the loss. Grief is not the opposite of faith; often, it reflects how deeply we have loved. Nehemiah's sorrow did not leave him stuck—it brought him into prayer and prepared him to take part in God's work.

What breaks our hearts may become a place where God begins His work. We do not need to rush past grief or carry it alone. We can bring our sorrow to God and ask Him to show us how to respond with love, patience, and courage.

Reflect: What grief or concern might God be inviting you to bring honestly to Him?

Pray: God, receive my sorrow and the burdens I carry. Comfort me, guide me, and show me how You might work through me. Let hope rise, even here. Amen.

Practice: Take time to pray for a person, place, or situation that weighs on your heart. Ask God to show you one faithful next step.

Closing Thought: God can turn a burden we feel into a work He begins.