

The Beginner's Guide
Part 3 – "Catching Fire"
September 23 & 26, 2021

Nehemiah 2:11-16

I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

- Recruitment begins with an accurate assessment.

Nehemiah 2:17-18

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

How to recruit a team:

- Define the problem.
- Offer a solution.
- Answer "Why now?"

Nehemiah 3:23-24

Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs in front of their house; and next to them, Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs beside his house. Next to him, Binnui son of Henadad repaired another section, from Azariah's house to the angle and the corner.

Nehemiah 3:28-30

Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house. Next to them, Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house. Next to him, Shemaiah son of Shekemiah, the guard at the East Gate, made repairs. Next to him, Hananiah son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. Next to them, Meshullam son of Berekiah made repairs opposite his living quarters.

- If you don't know what breaks your heart, start by making a difference in front of your own house.

Group Questions

1. Welcome to Groups! We're starting with a potentially vulnerable question. Let's go big or go home! During this series, we've been talking about predicting your future and creating a better one. When you look into your future:
 - a. What breaks your heart about present reality?
 - b. What do you see that could be and should be?
2. The first step to creating a better future is to acknowledge the pain of your present reality. What makes it hard for you to do that? What are you missing out on if you don't?
3. The second step is to pray and plan. What are you praying about for the future?
4. Review the three-step process to recruit help. Which step seems most important? Which step do you tend to skip?
5. How are you partnering with Hope Church or with a charity to meet a need "in front of your house"? What difference does it make? How might you recruit someone else to join you?
6. What has been most impactful from the life of Nehemiah so far?