

► **Bible Project Link:** [youtu.be/MkETkRv9tG8](https://youtu.be/MkETkRv9tG8)

## RECAP

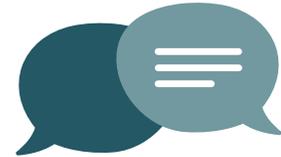
When Jesus speaks of what it takes to follow him, we find a juxtaposition. On one hand, he says that his yoke is easy and his burden is light, and on the other, he tells us to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily. As we continued our series in Nehemiah, Pastor Garrett challenged us to consider the amount of influence we have over our community when it comes to influencing others for the Kingdom of God. When we are salt and light in our community it makes an eternal difference, but every time we make the conscious decision to be an influence on others, we have to understand that the task is hard, our fears will need to be faced, preparation is essential and that opposition will come.

► **Icebreaker Question:** What teacher, coach, or other significant person had the biggest positive or negative impact on you?

## DISCUSS

Before you begin, open in prayer and read through Nehemiah 2. Ask your group to make any observations on Nehemiah's action, attitude, or how he approaches this tough circumstance.

1. The biggest driving factor motivating Nehemiah to undertake this seemingly impossible task is his heart for his people. Do you have something that motivates you or burdens you spiritually?
2. Why do you think that Nehemiah was so afraid to show emotion in front of Artaxerxes? What happens when Nehemiah faces his fears and is authentic about what he is feeling? In what ways or circumstances have you been able to communicate your fears and feelings to someone else?
3. How did Nehemiah's work ethic and character lead to his ability to enact the vision God has placed on his heart? How could you begin to develop your ethic, character, or approachability so that you might someday have this same opportunity?
4. Nehemiah was directly opposed by Sanballat and Tobiah. In what ways have you faced this type of opposition? How have you overcome it or how could you use support if you are currently facing opposition in your life, career, school, family, or friends?
5. One of the big assertions made by Pastor Garret this weekend was that the church has too big and too important of a role in our community to be filled with consumers rather than influencers. What do you think about this statement?



In this session, encourage the members of your group to share a pivotal moment in their faith journey! While the discussion questions are important, make sure to find ways to learn each other's stories or become more acquainted with one another! Having people share moments from their lives is critical to having meaningful study! Look at this list below for guidance or possibilities!

### Potential Pivotal Moments:

1. When did you begin to follow Jesus?
2. Have you been baptized?
3. Have you ever been on a mission trip?
4. What got you plugged into your church?
5. Have you experienced a hardship or difficulty that caused you to lean more on Christ?

## CLOSE

Today as you close, I want you to challenge your group to practice the discipline of silence for 2-3 minutes. Before that moment, ask your group what breaks your heart and how do you think God feels about it. After the moment of silence, pray over your group and encourage them to begin to pray about being the person that fixes what is breaking their heart.

