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BIBLIOGRAPHY for scripture references used in handbook

- English Standard Version (ESV) The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.
- New Living Translation (NLT) Holy Bible, New Living Translation, 1996, 2004 by Tyndale Charitable Trust

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

For those who are new to the SCC lifestyle process, we study and meditate on the passage prior to it being preached, and then continue to sit in the same passage until our cell group meeting. Typically, our cell group meetings follow a few days after the Sunday service, which would conclude your “week” of SCC. The day after your cell group meeting you move to the next week and start reading the new passage.

START MEDITATING ON PASSAGE THE WEEK OF....	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE	CELEBRATION SERVICE
Week 1: April 13-18	Ruth 1:1-5	April 19
Week 2: April 20-25	Ruth 1:6-22	April 26
Week 3: April 27-May 2	Ruth 2:1-17	May 3
Week 4: May 4-9	Ruth 2:17-23	May 10
Week 5: May 11-16	Ruth 3:1-18	May 17
Week 6: May 18-23	Ruth 4:1-12	May 24
Week 7: May 25-30	Ruth 4:13-22	May 31
Week 8: June 1-6	Nehemiah 1	June 7
Week 9: June 8-13	Nehemiah 2:1-8	June 14
Week 10: June 15-20	Nehemiah 2:9-20	June 21
Week 11: June 22-27	Nehemiah 3	June 28
Week 12: June 29-July 4	Nehemiah 4 IMPORTANT: REFLECTION WEEK	July 5

LHAC'S LIFESTYLE ESSENTIALS

The SCC lifestyle encourages us to grow in loving God more fully and loving our world in Christ's name.

LOVING GOD IN SOLITUDE is to retreat to a quiet place, in an attitude of surrender and trust, for an unhurried time of communion with God through His Word, prayer and other spiritual disciplines. Biblical basis: Josh. 1:8, 1 Tim. 4:7, Ps. 91:1, Matt. 6:5-6.

LOVING GOD IN CELL is to gather together, in an environment of love and trust, with a small group of believers who are growing in intimacy with God through the SCC lifestyle, in order to spur one another on to love God more fully through sharing, accountability and prayer. Biblical basis: Prov. 27:17, Heb. 10:24, 1 Thes. 5:11.

LOVING GOD IN CELEBRATION is to gather together as a church family on a weekly basis to worship God and delight in His presence; in song we express our love for Him and through the preaching of the Word we hear His voice. Biblical basis: Ps. 22:22, Heb. 10:25, Rom. 12:4-5.

THE PRACTICE OF “LOVING GOD IN SOLITUDE”

There are 4 key components in the practice of “Loving God In Solitude” that we encourage each person to do on a daily basis:

PRAY. Settle into God's presence by expressing to Him where you are right now. Ask Him to draw near to you as you draw near to Him.

The following is a suggestion. “Father, my desire is to draw near to You and commune with You during this time. Create in my heart and mind a quietness and rest. as I place on You my burdens and concerns, and confess my sins....

Protect this time from interruptions and distractions. Allow this to be more than a discipline, but an encounter with You where I delight in Your presence as You delight in me. Give me ears to hear Your voice as I read Your Word. Teach me, rebuke me, correct or train me so that I will be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16). Holy Spirit fill me with Yourself, refresh my soul and nourish my spirit. My heart's desire is to enjoy loving intimacy with You now and throughout my day. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.”

READ THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE MEDITATIVELY. Sink into the sermon-based scripture for a number of days, until you have plumbed the depths of it. Once you have plumbed its depths, move on to another bible passage (i.e. the complementary passage, or one of your own choosing) and sink into that for the remainder of the week.

- Study the passage of scripture to gain an understanding of the context of the passage and the key point(s) of truth taught in the passage.
- Listen for God's personal word to you through His written Word; attend to and linger over a word/phrase/verse that catches your attention.
- Practice listening prayer by waiting in a receptive posture of openness toward God, asking Him to show you how this word/phrase/verse connects with your life right now.
- Record what God is saying to you.

RESPOND TO GOD IN PRAYER. Allow your God-lead ponderings be a catalyst to prayer, talking to Him about what He has revealed to you. Take time to intercede for your accountability group members.

CONTINUE TO MEDITATE ON THIS WORD/PHRASE THROUGHOUT THE DAY. Allow God to further form, shape and apply these words in your life as you go into your day.

THE SCC WEEKLY PROCESS

WEEK 1

SOLITUDE: STUDYING AND MEDITATING ON RUTH 1:1-5

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 In the days ^(A)when the judges ruled there was ^(B)a famine in the land, and a man of ^(C)Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were ^(D)Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

New Living Translation (NLT)

1 In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. ²The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there.

³Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. ⁴The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, ⁵both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

Cross references:

- A) Ruth 1:1 : Judg. 2:16
- B) Ruth 1:1 : Gen. 12:10; 26:1; 43:1; 2 Kgs. 8:1
- C) Ruth 1:1 : See Judg. 17:7
- D) Ruth 1:2 : Gen. 35:19

OPTIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. *What were "the days when the judges ruled" like? In this era, what did it mean that there was a famine in the land?*
2. *What do you make of Elimelech's response to the famine? What is the significance of seeking refuge in Moab? Where does he place his trust?*
3. *What should he have done? What is the appropriate response in this situation?*
4. *What does this passage teach you about God?*
5. *What does this passage teach you about yourself?*

SOLITUDE: JOURNALING

As God speaks to you through His Word write down what is impacting you, what He is saying to you personally and/or your response back to Him.

WEEK 1

OPTIONAL: CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

We are introducing this as an option for those who are enjoying sinking into a small portion of Scripture weekly, but also want to see and understand the breadth of Scripture. If you participate in this, you will read the Bible through in 4 years, at a reasonable pace (i.e. 1 chapter per day for 6 days of the week) that will allow you to take time to prayerfully consider what God is saying to you.

- Psalm 124
- Psalm 125
- Psalm 126
- Psalm 127
- Psalm 128
- Psalm 129

OPTIONAL: JOURNALING FOR CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF GOD'S WORD

OPTIONAL: THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

PART 1 - God, Creation and Fall, Law

Q16: What is sin?

Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, rebelling against him by living without reference to him, not being or doing what he requires in his law—resulting in our death and the disintegration of all creation.

Pray for our International workers in Aruba:
Vance and Wendy Sutherland

WEEK 1
CELEBRATION: SERMON NOTES

How will what I heard impact my life this week?

WEEK 1
CELL GROUP MEETING:

PERSONAL REFLECTION (5 MINUTES)

Prayerfully consider your practice of Solitude over the previous week, as well as how God spoke to you as you lived the SCC lifestyle. Is God inviting you to.....

- Focus on your practice of "Loving God in Solitude"?
- Take a step of obedience?
- Repent from a sin?
- Trust and rest in a truth?
- Or something else?

This coming week God is inviting me to..... / My response to God's invitation is to....

How I did with last week's accountability item...



Pray for our International workers in Aruba:
Vance and Wendy Sutherland

WEEK 2

SOLITUDE: STUDYING AND MEDITATING ON RUTH 1:6-22

English Standard Version (ESV)

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that ^(A)the Lord had visited his people and ^(B)given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord ^(C)deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with ^(D)the dead and with me. ⁹ The Lord grant that you may find ^(E)rest, each of you in the house of her husband!” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰ And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” ¹¹ But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb ^(F)that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³ would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that ^(G)the hand of the Lord has gone out against me.” ¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to ^(H)her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. ^(I)Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, ^(J)May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” ¹⁸ ^(K)And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, ^(L)the whole town was stirred because of them. And the

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁶ Then Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland. ⁷ With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah.

⁸ But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back to your mothers’ homes. And may the Lord reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. ⁹ May the Lord bless you with the security of another marriage.” Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept.

¹⁰ “No,” they said. “We want to go with you to your people.”

¹¹ But Naomi replied, “Why should you go on with me? Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands? ¹² No, my daughters, return to your parents’ homes, for I am too old to marry again. And even if it were possible, and I were to get married tonight and bear sons, then what? ¹³ Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord himself has raised his fist against me.”

¹⁴ And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi.

¹⁵ “Look,” Naomi said to her, “your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same.”

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. ¹⁷ Wherever you die, I will die,

women said, “Is this Naomi?”²⁰ She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me ^(M)Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ ^(N)I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem ^(O)at the beginning of barley harvest.

and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!”
¹⁸ When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.

¹⁹ So the two of them continued on their journey. When they came to Bethlehem, the entire town was excited by their arrival. “Is it really Naomi?” the women asked.

²⁰ “Don’t call me Naomi,” she responded. “Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. ²¹ I went away full, but the Lord has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the Lord has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?”

²² So Naomi returned from Moab, accompanied by her daughter-in-law Ruth, the young Moabite woman. They arrived in Bethlehem in late spring, at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Cross references:

A) Ruth 1:6 : Ex. 3:16; 4:31; Luke 1:68
B) Ruth 1:6 : Ps. 132:15
C) Ruth 1:8 : Josh. 2:12, 14; Judg. 1:24
D) Ruth 1:8 : ver. 5; ch. 2:20
E) Ruth 1:9 : ch. 3:1
F) Ruth 1:11 : Gen. 38:11; Deut. 25:5

G) Ruth 1:13 : Judg. 2:15; [Job 19:21; Ps. 32:4; 38:2; 39:10]
H) Ruth 1:15 : Judg. 11:24; 1 Kgs. 11:7; Jer. 48:7, 13, 46
I) Ruth 1:16 : [ch. 2:11, 12]
J) Ruth 1:17 : 1 Sam. 3:17; 25:22; 2 Sam. 19:13; 1 Kgs. 2:23

K) Ruth 1:18 : [Acts 21:14]
L) Ruth 1:19 : [Matt. 21:10]
M) Ruth 1:20 : Ex. 15:23
N) Ruth 1:21 : Job 1:21
O) Ruth 1:22 : 2 Sam. 21:9; [ch. 2:23]

WEEK 2

SOLITUDE: JOURNALING

As God speaks to you through His Word write down what is impacting you, what He is saying to you personally and/or your response back to Him.

WEEK 2

OPTIONAL: CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

- Psalm 130
- Psalm 131
- Psalm 132
- Psalm 133
- Psalm 134
- Psalm 135

OPTIONAL: JOURNALING FOR CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF GOD'S WORD

OPTIONAL: THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

PART 1 - God, Creation and Fall, Law

Q17: What is idolatry?

Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security.

WEEK 2
CELEBRATION: SERMON NOTES

Pray for our International workers in Aruba:
Vance and Wendy Sutherland

How will what I heard impact my life this week?

WEEK 2
CELL GROUP MEETING:

PERSONAL REFLECTION (5 MINUTES)

Prayerfully consider your practice of Solitude over the previous week, as well as how God spoke to you as you lived the SCC lifestyle. Is God inviting you to.....

- Focus on your practice of “Loving God in Solitude”?
- Take a step of obedience?
- Repent from a sin?
- Trust and rest in a truth?
- Or something else?

This coming week God is inviting me to..... / My response to God's invitation is to...

How I did with last week's accountability item...



Pray for our International workers in Aruba:
Vance and Wendy Sutherland

WEEK 2

GROUP ACCOUNTABILITY & PRAYER (30-45 MINUTES)

Group Members' Accountability Items (& Other Items) to Pray For:

WEEK 3

SOLITUDE: STUDYING OF & MEDITATING ON RUTH 2:1-17

English Standard Version (ESV)

2 Now Naomi had ^(A)a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was ^(B)Boaz. ² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and ^(C)glean among the ears of grain after him ^(D)in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." ³ So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. ⁴ And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, ^(E)"The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The Lord bless you." ⁵ Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" ⁶ And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, ^(F)who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. ⁷ She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. ⁹ Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn." ¹⁰ Then ^(G)she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should ^(H)take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" ¹¹ But Boaz answered her, ^(I)"All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. ¹² ^(J)The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take

New Living Translation (NLT)

2 Now there was a wealthy and influential man in Bethlehem named Boaz, who was a relative of Naomi's husband, Elimelech.

² One day Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go out into the harvest fields to pick up the stalks of grain left behind by anyone who is kind enough to let me do it."

Naomi replied, "All right, my daughter, go ahead." ³ So Ruth went out to gather grain behind the harvesters. And as it happened, she found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, the relative of her father-in-law, Elimelech.

⁴ While she was there, Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters. "The Lord be with you!" he said. "The Lord bless you!" the harvesters replied.

⁵ Then Boaz asked his foreman, "Who is that young woman over there? Who does she belong to?"

⁶ And the foreman replied, "She is the young woman from Moab who came back with Naomi. ⁷ She asked me this morning if she could gather grain behind the harvesters. She has been hard at work ever since, except for a few minutes' rest in the shelter."

⁸ Boaz went over and said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Stay right here with us when you gather grain; don't go to any other fields. Stay right behind the young women working in my field. ⁹ See which part of the field they are harvesting, and then follow them. I have warned the young men not to treat you roughly. And when you are thirsty, help yourself to the water they have drawn from the well."

refuge!”¹³ Then she said, ^(K)“I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants.”

¹⁴ And at mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until ^(L)she was satisfied, and she had some left over. ¹⁵ When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. ¹⁶ And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.”

¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

¹⁰ Ruth fell at his feet and thanked him warmly. “What have I done to deserve such kindness?” she asked. “I am only a foreigner.”

¹¹ “Yes, I know,” Boaz replied. “But I also know about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband. I have heard how you left your father and mother and your own land to live here among complete strangers. ¹² May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done.”

¹³ “I hope I continue to please you, sir,” she replied. “You have comforted me by speaking so kindly to me, even though I am not one of your workers.”

¹⁴ At mealtime Boaz called to her, “Come over here, and help yourself to some food. You can dip your bread in the sour wine.” So she sat with his harvesters, and Boaz gave her some roasted grain to eat. She ate all she wanted and still had some left over.

¹⁵ When Ruth went back to work again, Boaz ordered his young men, “Let her gather grain right among the sheaves without stopping her. ¹⁶ And pull out some heads of barley from the bundles and drop them on purpose for her. Let her pick them up, and don’t give her a hard time!”

¹⁷ So Ruth gathered barley there all day, and when she beat out the grain that evening, it filled an entire basket.

Cross references:

A) Ruth 2:1 : ch. 3:2, 12
 B) Ruth 2:1 : ch. 4:21; Matt. 1:5
 C) Ruth 2:2 : [Deut. 24:19]
 D) Ruth 2:2 : ver. 10, 13
 E) Ruth 2:4 : Ps. 129:7, 8

F) Ruth 2:6 : ch. 1:22
 G) Ruth 2:10 : [1 Sam. 25:23, 41]
 H) Ruth 2:10 : ver. 19
 I) Ruth 2:11 : ch. 1:14, 16, 17
 J) Ruth 2:12 : [1 Sam. 24:19]

K) Ruth 2:13 : ver. 2, 10; Gen. 33:15; 1 Sam. 1:18
 L) Ruth 2:14 : ver. 18

OPTIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. *What do we learn here about God's sovereignty in relation to human initiative?*

2. *In what ways has Ruth demonstrated that God is her refuge?*

3. *What do learn about Boaz' character from his treatment of Ruth?*

4. *What does this passage teach you about God?*

5. *What does this passage teach you about yourself?*

WEEK 3

SOLITUDE: JOURNALING

As God speaks to you through His Word write down what is impacting you, what He is saying to you personally and/or your response back to Him.

WEEK 3

OPTIONAL: CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

- Psalm 136
- Psalm 137
- Psalm 138
- Psalm 139
- Psalm 140
- Psalm 141

OPTIONAL: JOURNALING FOR CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF GOD'S WORD

OPTIONAL: THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

PART 1 - God, Creation and Fall, Law

Q18: Will God allow our disobedience and idolatry to go unpunished?

No, every sin is against the sovereignty, holiness, and goodness of God, and against his righteous law, and God is righteously angry with our sins and will punish them in his just judgment both in this life, and in the life to come.

WEEK 3
CELEBRATION: SERMON NOTES

How will what I heard impact my life this week?

WEEK 3
CELL GROUP MEETING:

PERSONAL REFLECTION (5 MINUTES)

Prayerfully consider your practice of Solitude over the previous week, as well as how God spoke to you as you lived the SCC lifestyle. Is God inviting you to.....

- Focus on your practice of "Loving God in Solitude"?
- Take a step of obedience?
- Repent from a sin?
- Trust and rest in a truth?
- Or something else?

This coming week God is inviting me to..... / My response to God's invitation is to....

How I did with last week's accountability item...



Pray for our International workers in Aruba:
Vance and Wendy Sutherland

WEEK 4

SOLITUDE: STUDYING OF & MEDITATING ON RUTH 2:17-23

English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. ¹⁸ And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over ^(A)after being satisfied. ¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man ^(B)who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." ²⁰ And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, ^(C)"May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken ^(D)the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of ^(E)our redeemers." ²¹ And Ruth the Moabite said, "Besides, he said to me, 'You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'" ²² And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted." ²³ So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁷ So Ruth gathered barley there all day, and when she beat out the grain that evening, it filled an entire basket.

¹⁸ She carried it back into town and showed it to her mother-in-law. Ruth also gave her the roasted grain that was left over from her meal.

¹⁹ "Where did you gather all this grain today?" Naomi asked. "Where did you work? May the Lord bless the one who helped you!"

So Ruth told her mother-in-law about the man in whose field she had worked. She said, "The man I worked with today is named Boaz."

²⁰ "May the Lord bless him!" Naomi told her daughter-in-law. "He is showing his kindness to us as well as to your dead husband. That man is one of our closest relatives, one of our family redeemers."

²¹ Then Ruth said, "What's more, Boaz even told me to come back and stay with his harvesters until the entire harvest is completed."

²² "Good!" Naomi exclaimed. "Do as he said, my daughter. Stay with his young women right through the whole harvest. You might be harassed in other fields, but you'll be safe with him."

²³ So Ruth worked alongside the women in Boaz's fields and gathered grain with them until the end of the barley harvest. Then she continued working with them through the wheat harvest in early summer. And all the while she lived with her mother-in-law.

Cross references:

- A) Ruth 2:18 : ver. 14
- B) Ruth 2:19 : ver. 10
- C) Ruth 2:20 : ch. 3:10; Judg. 17:2; 1 Sam. 15:13; 23:21; 2 Sam. 2:5
- D) Ruth 2:20 : ch. 1:8
- E) Ruth 2:20 : ch. 3:9; 4:14

WEEK 4

SOLITUDE: JOURNALING

As God speaks to you through His Word write down what is impacting you, what He is saying to you personally and/or your response back to Him.

WEEK 4

OPTIONAL: CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

- Psalm 142
- Psalm 143
- Psalm 144
- Psalm 145
- Psalm 146
- Psalm 147

OPTIONAL: JOURNALING FOR CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF GOD'S WORD

OPTIONAL: THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

PART 1 - God, Creation and Fall, Law

Q19: Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favour?

Yes, to satisfy his justice, God himself, out of mere mercy, reconciles us to himself and delivers us from sin and from the punishment for sin, by a Redeemer.

WEEK 4
CELEBRATION: SERMON NOTES

How will what I heard impact my life this week?

WEEK 4

PERSONAL REFLECTION (5 MINUTES)

Prayerfully consider your practice of Solitude over the previous week, as well as how God spoke to you as you lived the SCC lifestyle. Is God inviting you to.....

- Focus on your practice of “Loving God in Solitude”?
- Take a step of obedience?
- Repent from a sin?
- Trust and rest in a truth?
- Or something else?

This coming week God is inviting me to..... / My response to God's invitation is to...

How I did with last week's accountability item...

WEEK 5

SOLITUDE: STUDYING OF & MEDITATING ON RUTH 3:1-18

English Standard Version (ESV)

3 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not seek ^(A)rest for you, that it may be well with you? ² Is not Boaz ^(B)our relative, ^(C)with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³ ^(D)Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.” ⁵ And she replied, “All that you say I will do.”

⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. ⁷ And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and ^(E)his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. ⁸ At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! ⁹ He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant. ^(F)Spread your wings over your servant, for you are ^(G)a redeemer.” ¹⁰ And he said, ^(H)“May you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than ^(I)the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are ^(J)a worthy woman. ¹² And now it is true that I am ^(K)a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. ¹³ Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will ^(L)redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, ^(M)as the Lord lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning.”

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, “Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” ¹⁵ And he said, “Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out.” So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city. ¹⁶ And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “How did you fare, my daughter?” Then she told her all that the man

New Living Translation (NLT)

3 One day Naomi said to Ruth, “My daughter, it’s time that I found a permanent home for you, so that you will be provided for. ² Boaz is a close relative of ours, and he’s been very kind by letting you gather grain with his young women. Tonight he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor. ³ Now do as I tell you—take a bath and put on perfume and dress in your nicest clothes. Then go to the threshing floor, but don’t let Boaz see you until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ Be sure to notice where he lies down; then go and uncover his feet and lie down there. He will tell you what to do.”

⁵ “I will do everything you say,” Ruth replied. ⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor that night and followed the instructions of her mother-in-law.

⁷ After Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he lay down at the far end of the pile of grain and went to sleep. Then Ruth came quietly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. ⁸ Around midnight Boaz suddenly woke up and turned over. He was surprised to find a woman lying at his feet! ⁹ “Who are you?” he asked.

“I am your servant Ruth,” she replied. “Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer.”

¹⁰ “The Lord bless you, my daughter!” Boaz exclaimed. “You are showing even more family loyalty now than you did before, for you have not gone after a younger man, whether rich or poor. ¹¹ Now don’t worry about a thing, my daughter. I will do what is necessary, for everyone in town knows you are a virtuous woman. ¹² But while it’s true that I am one of your family redeemers, there is another man who is more closely related to you than I am. ¹³ Stay here tonight, and in the morning I will talk to him. If he is willing to redeem you, very well. Let him marry you. But if he is not willing, then as surely as the Lord lives, I will redeem you myself! Now lie down here until morning.”

had done for her, ¹⁷ saying, “These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said to me, ‘You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.’” ¹⁸ She replied, “Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today.”

¹⁴ So Ruth lay at Boaz’s feet until the morning, but she got up before it was light enough for people to recognize each other. For Boaz had said, “No one must know that a woman was here at the threshing floor.” ¹⁵ Then Boaz said to her, “Bring your cloak and spread it out.” He measured six scoops of barley into the cloak and placed it on her back. Then he returned to the town.

¹⁶ When Ruth went back to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “What happened, my daughter?”

Ruth told Naomi everything Boaz had done for her, ¹⁷ and she added, “He gave me these six scoops of barley and said, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’”

¹⁸ Then Naomi said to her, “Just be patient, my daughter, until we hear what happens. The man won’t rest until he has settled things today.”

Cross references:

A) Ruth 3:1 : ch. 1:9
 B) Ruth 3:2 : ch. 2:1
 C) Ruth 3:2 : ch. 2:8
 D) Ruth 3:3 : 2 Sam. 12:20; 14:2
 E) Ruth 3:7 : See Judg. 19:6

F) Ruth 3:9 : Ezek. 16:8; [Deut. 22:30]
 G) Ruth 3:9 : ch. 2:20
 H) Ruth 3:10 : See ch. 2:20
 I) Ruth 3:10 : ch. 1:8
 J) Ruth 3:11 : Prov. 12:4; 31:10

K) Ruth 3:12 : ch. 4:1
 L) Ruth 3:13 : ch. 4:5; [Deut. 25:5]
 M) Ruth 3:13 : Judg. 8:19; 1 Sam. 14:39; 2 Sam. 4:9; 12:5; 2 Kgs. 2:2, 6

OPTIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. *What is admirable about Naomi's plan and what is questionable?*

2. *What is Ruth requesting of Boaz? What specifically does she want of him?*

3. *What do we learn of Boaz's character in his response to Ruth? What in his response is worth imitating?*

3. *What does this passage teach you about God?*

4. *What does this passage teach you about yourself?*

WEEK 5
SOLITUDE: JOURNALING

WEEK 5

OPTIONAL: CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

- Psalm 148
- Psalm 149
- Psalm 150
- Proverbs 1
- Proverbs 2
- Proverbs 3

OPTIONAL: JOURNALING FOR CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF GOD'S WORD

OPTIONAL: THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

PART 2 - Christ, Redemption, Grace

Q20: Who is the Redeemer?

The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, in whom God became man and bore the penalty for sin himself.

WEEK 5
CELEBRATION: SERMON NOTES

How will what I heard impact my life this week?

WEEK 5
CELL GROUP MEETING: RESPONSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

PERSONAL REFLECTION (5 MINUTES)

Prayerfully consider your practice of Solitude over the previous week, as well as how God spoke to you as you lived the SCC lifestyle. Is God inviting you to.....

- Focus on your practice of "Loving God in Solitude"?
- Take a step of obedience?
- Repent from a sin?
- Trust and rest in a truth?
- Or something else?

This coming week God is inviting me to..... / My response to God's invitation is to....

How I did with last week's accountability item...

WEEK 5

GROUP ACCOUNTABILITY & PRAYER (30-45 MINUTES)

Group Members' Accountability Items (& Other Items) to Pray For:



Please join us in prayer for the Punjabi Sikh people group in Brampton

WEEK 6

SOLITUDE: STUDYING OF & MEDITATING ON RUTH 4:1-12

English Standard Version (ESV)

4 Now Boaz had gone up to ^(A)the gate and sat down there. And behold, ^(B)the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, “Turn aside, friend; sit down here.” And he turned aside and sat down. ² And he took ten men ^(C)of the elders of the city and said, “Sit down here.” So they sat down. ³ Then he said to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. ⁴ So I thought I would tell you of it and say, ^(D)‘Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.’ If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you.” And he said, “I will redeem it.” ⁵ Then Boaz said, “The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order ^(E)to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance.” ⁶ ^(F)Then the redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.”

⁷ ^(G)Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. ⁸ So when the redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself,” he drew off his sandal. ⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to ^(H)Chilion and to Mahlon. ¹⁰ Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, ^(I)to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day.” ¹¹ Then all the people who were ^(J)at the gate and the elders said, “We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, ^(K)who together ^(L)built up the house of Israel. May you

New Living Translation (NLT)

4 Boaz went to the town gate and took a seat there. Just then the family redeemer he had mentioned came by, so Boaz called out to him, “Come over here and sit down, friend. I want to talk to you.” So they sat down together. ² Then Boaz called ten leaders from the town and asked them to sit as witnesses. ³ And Boaz said to the family redeemer, “You know Naomi, who came back from Moab. She is selling the land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. ⁴ I thought I should speak to you about it so that you can redeem it if you wish. If you want the land, then buy it here in the presence of these witnesses. But if you don’t want it, let me know right away, because I am next in line to redeem it after you.”

The man replied, “All right, I’ll redeem it.”

⁵ Then Boaz told him, “Of course, your purchase of the land from Naomi also requires that you marry Ruth, the Moabite widow. That way she can have children who will carry on her husband’s name and keep the land in the family.”

⁶ “Then I can’t redeem it,” the family redeemer replied, “because this might endanger my own estate. You redeem the land; I cannot do it.”

⁷ Now in those days it was the custom in Israel for anyone transferring a right of purchase to remove his sandal and hand it to the other party. This publicly validated the transaction. ⁸ So the other family redeemer drew off his sandal as he said to Boaz, “You buy the land.”

⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and to the crowd standing around, “You are witnesses that today I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. ¹⁰ And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the

act worthily in ^(M)Ephrathah and ^(N)be renowned in Bethlehem, ¹² and may your house be like the house of Perez, ^(O)whom Tamar bore to Judah, because ^(P)of the offspring that the Lord will give you by this young woman.”

family property here in his hometown. You are all witnesses today.”

¹¹ Then the elders and all the people standing in the gate replied, “We are witnesses! May the Lord make this woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, from whom all the nation of Israel descended! May you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. ¹² And may the Lord give you descendants by this young woman who will be like those of our ancestor Perez, the son of Tamar and Judah.”

Cross references:

A) Ruth 4:1 : 2 Sam. 15:2; 18:4, 24, 33; 19:8; Ps. 127:5

B) Ruth 4:1 : ch. 2:20

C) Ruth 4:2 : 1 Kgs. 21:8; Prov. 31:23

D) Ruth 4:4 : Lev. 25:25; [Jer. 32:7, 8]

E) Ruth 4:5 : ver. 10; ch. 3:13; Deut. 25:5, 6

F) Ruth 4:6 : ch. 3:12, 13

G) Ruth 4:7 : See Deut. 25:7-10

H) Ruth 4:9 : ch. 1:2, 4, 5

I) Ruth 4:10 : ver. 5

J) Ruth 4:11 : See ver. 1

K) Ruth 4:11 : See Gen. 29:31-30:24; 35:16-18

L) Ruth 4:11 : Deut. 25:9

M) Ruth 4:11 : Gen. 35:16, 19

N) Ruth 4:11 : ver. 14

O) Ruth 4:12 : Gen. 38:29; 1 Chr. 2:4; Matt. 1:3

P) Ruth 4:12 : 1 Sam. 2:20

OPTIONAL: STUDY HELP QUESTIONS:

1. *Why does the redeemer change his mind? Why motivated his 'yes', and what motivated his 'no'?*
2. *How is Boaz different from this redeemer?*
3. *Read Philippians 2:1-11. Compare and contrast Boaz and the redeemer with Christ.*
4. *What does this passage teach you about God?*

5. *What does this passage teach you about yourself?*

WEEK 6
SOLITUDE: JOURNALING

WEEK 6

OPTIONAL: CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

- Proverbs 4
- Proverbs 5
- Proverbs 6
- Proverbs 7
- Proverbs 8
- Proverbs 9

OPTIONAL: JOURNALING FOR CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF GOD'S WORD

OPTIONAL: THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

PART 2 - Christ, Redemption, Grace

Q21: What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?

One who is truly human and also truly God.

WEEK 6
CELEBRATION: SERMON NOTES

How will what I heard impact my life this week?

WEEK 6

CELL GROUP MEETING: RESPONSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

Prayerfully consider your practice of Solitude over the previous week, as well as how God spoke to you as you lived the SCC lifestyle. Is God inviting you to.....

- Focus on your practice of “Loving God in Solitude”?
- Take a step of obedience?
- Repent from a sin?
- Trust and rest in a truth?
- Or something else?

This coming week God is inviting me to..... / My response to God's invitation is to....

How I did with last week's accountability item...

WEEK 6
GROUP ACCOUNTABILITY & PRAYER (30-45 MINUTES)

Group Members' Accountability Items (& Other Items) to Pray For:



Please join us in prayer for
the Punjabi Sikh people
group in Brampton

WEEK 7

SOLITUDE: STUDYING OF & MEDITATING ON RUTH 4:13-22

English Standard Version (ESV)

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, ^(A)and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁴ ^(B)Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without ^(C)a redeemer, and may his name ^(D)be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, ^(E)who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷ ^(F)And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸ Now these are the generations of Perez: ^(G)Perez fathered Hezron, ¹⁹ Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, ²⁰ ^(H)Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, ²¹ Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, ²² Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

Cross references:

- A) Ruth 4:13 : Gen. 29:31; 33:5
- B) Ruth 4:14 : [Luke 1:58]
- C) Ruth 4:14 : ch. 2:20
- D) Ruth 4:14 : ver. 11
- E) Ruth 4:15 : 1 Sam. 1:8
- F) Ruth 4:17 : Luke 1:59
- G) Ruth 4:18 : For ver. 18-22, see 1 Chr. 2:4-15; Matt. 1:3-6
- H) Ruth 4:20 : Num. 1:7; [Ex. 6:23]

New Living Translation (NLT)

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the Lord enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴ Then the women of the town said to Naomi, “Praise the Lord, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. ¹⁵ May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!”

¹⁶ Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own. ¹⁷ The neighbor women said, “Now at last Naomi has a son again!” And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.

¹⁸ This is the genealogical record of their ancestor Perez:

- Perez was the father of Hezron.
- ¹⁹ Hezron was the father of Ram.
- Ram was the father of Amminadab.
- ²⁰ Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.
- Nahshon was the father of Salmon.
- ²¹ Salmon was the father of Boaz.
- Boaz was the father of Obed.
- ²² Obed was the father of Jesse.
- Jesse was the father of David.

OPTIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. *How has God graciously restored Naomi? List and explain all the ways.*

2. *What is the larger purpose to the book of Ruth?*

3. *What does this passage teach you about God?*

4. *What does this passage teach you about yourself?*

WEEK 7
SOLITUDE: JOURNALING

WEEK 7

OPTIONAL: CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

- Proverbs 10
- Proverbs 11
- Proverbs 12
- Proverbs 13
- Proverbs 14
- Proverbs 15

OPTIONAL: JOURNALING FOR CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF GOD'S WORD

OPTIONAL: THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

PART 2 - Christ, Redemption, Grace

Q22: Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathize with our weaknesses.

WEEK 7
CELEBRATION: SERMON NOTES

How will what I heard impact my life this week?

WEEK 7
CELL GROUP MEETING: RESPONSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

Prayerfully consider your practice of Solitude over the previous week, as well as how God spoke to you during these times. Is God inviting you to...

- Focus on your practice of "Loving God in Solitude"?
- Take a step of obedience?
- Repent from a sin?
- Trust and rest in a truth?
- Or something else?

This coming week God is inviting me to..... / My response to God's invitation is to....

How I did with last week's accountability item...

Please join us in prayer for the Punjabi
Sikh people group in Brampton

WEEK 7

GROUP ACCOUNTABILITY & PRAYER (30-45 MINUTES)

Group Members' Accountability Items (& Other Items) to Pray For:



WEEK 8

SOLITUDE: STUDYING OF & MEDITATING ON NEHEMIAH 1

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 The words of ^(A)Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of ^(B)Chislev, ^(C)in the twentieth year, as I was in ^(D)Susa the citadel, ² that ^(E)Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and ^(F)shame. ^(G)The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, ^(H)and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

⁴ As soon as I heard these words I ^(I)sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the ^(J)God of heaven. ⁵ And I said, “O Lord God of heaven, ^(K)the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶ ^(L)let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, ^(M)confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even ^(N)I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ ^(O)We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules ^(P)that you commanded your servant Moses. ⁸ Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, ^(Q)I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹ ^(R)but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, ^(S)though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them ^(T)to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’ ¹⁰ ^(U)They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹ O Lord, ^(V)let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

New Living Translation (NLT)

1 These are the memoirs of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah.

In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa. ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem.

³ They said to me, “Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire.”

⁴ When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ Then I said,

“O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands, ⁶ listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned! ⁷ We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.

⁸ “Please remember what you told your servant Moses: ‘If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. ⁹ But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored.’

¹⁰ “The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants. ¹¹ O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success

Now I was ^(W)cupbearer to the king.

today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me.”

In those days I was the king’s cup-bearer.

Cross references:

A) Nehemiah 1:1 : ch. 10:1
 B) Nehemiah 1:1 : Zech. 7:1
 C) Nehemiah 1:1 : ch. 2:1
 D) Nehemiah 1:1 : Esth. 1:2, 5; 2:3, 5
 E) Nehemiah 1:2 : ch. 7:2
 F) Nehemiah 1:3 : ch. 2:17
 G) Nehemiah 1:3 : ch. 2:13; 2 Kgs. 25:10
 H) Nehemiah 1:3 : ch. 2:3, 13, 17
 I) Nehemiah 1:4 : [Ezra 9:3]
 J) Nehemiah 1:4 : ch. 2:4

K) Nehemiah 1:5 : ch. 9:32; Dan. 9:4; [Deut. 7:21]
 L) Nehemiah 1:6 : Dan. 9:18; [1 Kgs. 8:29; 2 Chr. 6:40]
 M) Nehemiah 1:6 : Ezra 10:1; Dan. 9:20
 N) Nehemiah 1:6 : [Ps. 106:6]
 O) Nehemiah 1:7 : Dan. 9:5
 P) Nehemiah 1:7 : Deut. 28:15
 Q) Nehemiah 1:8 : Lev. 26:33; Deut. 28:64; See Deut. 4:25-27

R) Nehemiah 1:9 : Lev. 26:39-42; Deut. 4:29-31; 30:2, 3
 S) Nehemiah 1:9 : Deut. 30:4
 T) Nehemiah 1:9 : Deut. 12:5
 U) Nehemiah 1:10 : Deut. 9:29
 V) Nehemiah 1:11 : [See ver. 6 above]; Dan. 9:18; [1 Kgs. 8:29; 2 Chr. 6:40]
 W) Nehemiah 1:11 : [ch. 2:1]

OPTIONAL: STUDY HELP QUESTIONS:

1. *What is the cause of Nehemiah's grief?*

2. *What are the most impactful parts of Nehemiah's prayer as you read it?*

3. *What is the basis for hope for God's people?*

4. *What does this passage teach you about God?*

5. *What does this passage teach you about yourself?*

WEEK 8
SOLITUDE: JOURNALING

WEEK 8

OPTIONAL: CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

- Proverbs 16
- Proverbs 17
- Proverbs 18
- Proverbs 19
- Proverbs 20
- Proverbs 21

OPTIONAL: JOURNALING FOR CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF GOD'S WORD

OPTIONAL: THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

PART 2 - Christ, Redemption, Grace

Q23: Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that he would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death.

WEEK 8
CELEBRATION: SERMON NOTES

How will what I heard impact my life this week?

WEEK 8
CELL GROUP MEETING: RESPONSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

Prayerfully consider your practice of Solitude over the previous week, as well as how God spoke to you during these times. Is God inviting you to...

- Focus on your practice of "Loving God in Solitude"?
- Take a step of obedience?
- Repent from a sin?
- Trust and rest in a truth?
- Or something else?

This coming week God is inviting me to..... / My response to God's invitation is to....

How I did with last week's accountability item...



Please pray for our international workers in Japan, Doug and Carol Woon

WEEK 9

SOLITUDE: STUDYING OF & MEDITATING ON NEHEMIAH 2:1-8

English Standard Version (ESV)

2 In the month of Nisan, ^(A)in the twentieth year of King ^(B)Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, ^(C)I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ² And the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but ^(D)sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid. ³ I said to the king, ^(E)“Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, ^(F)when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” ⁴ Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed ^(G)to the God of heaven. ⁵ And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it.” ⁶ And the king said to me ^(H)the queen sitting beside him), “How long will you be gone, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me ^(I)when I had given him a time. ⁷ And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given me ^(J)to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, ⁸ and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of ^(K)the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.” And the king granted me what I asked, ^(L)for the good hand of my God was upon me.

New Living Translation (NLT)

2 Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence. ² So the king asked me, “Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled.”

Then I was terrified, ³ but I replied, “Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire.”

⁴ The king asked, “Well, how can I help you?”

With a prayer to the God of heaven, ⁵ I replied, “If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried.”

⁶ The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, “How long will you be gone? When will you return?” After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request.

⁷ I also said to the king, “If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah. ⁸ And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself.” And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me.

Cross references:

A) Nehemiah 2:1 : ch. 1:1; 5:14

B) Nehemiah 2:1 : Ezra 7:1

C) Nehemiah 2:1 : [ch. 1:11]

D) Nehemiah 2:2 : Prov. 15:13

E) Nehemiah 2:3 : 1 Kgs. 1:31; Dan. 2:4; 5:10; 6:21

F) Nehemiah 2:3 : ver. 13, 17; ch. 1:3

G) Nehemiah 2:4 : ver. 20; ch. 1:4, 5; Ezra 5:12; Dan. 2:18

H) Nehemiah 2:6 : [Ps. 45:9]

I) Nehemiah 2:6 : [ch. 5:14; 13:6]

J) Nehemiah 2:7 : Ezra 8:36

K) Nehemiah 2:8 : ch. 7:2

L) Nehemiah 2:8 : ver. 18; See Ezra 7:6

OPTIONAL: STUDY HELP QUESTIONS:

1. *How much of a risk would it have been for Nehemiah to approach the king in this situation?*

2. *Did Nehemiah act wisely or foolishly?*

3. *What do you think is the right balance between wisdom/safety and godly risk-taking? What part does prayer play in the equation?*

4. *What does this passage teach you about God?*

5. *What does this passage teach you about yourself?*

WEEK 9
SOLITUDE: JOURNALING

WEEK 9

OPTIONAL: CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

- Proverbs 22
- Proverbs 23
- Proverbs 24
- Proverbs 25
- Proverbs 26
- Proverbs 27

OPTIONAL: JOURNALING FOR CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF GOD'S WORD

OPTIONAL: THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

PART 2 - Christ, Redemption, Grace

Q24: Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die?

Since death is the punishment for sin, Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God. By his substitutionary atoning death, he alone redeems us from hell and gains for us forgiveness of sin, righteousness, and everlasting life.

WEEK 9
CELEBRATION: SERMON NOTES

How will what I heard impact my life this week?

WEEK 9

CELL GROUP MEETING: RESPONSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

Prayerfully consider your practice of Solitude over the previous week, as well as how God spoke to you during these times. Is God inviting you to...

- Focus on your practice of "Loving God in Solitude"?
- Take a step of obedience?
- Repent from a sin?
- Trust and rest in a truth?
- Or something else?

This coming week God is inviting me to..... / My response to God's invitation is to....

How I did with last week's accountability item...



Pray for our International workers in Japan, Doug and Carol Woon

WEEK 9
GROUP ACCOUNTABILITY & PRAYER (30-45 MINUTES)

Group Members' Accountability Items (& Other Items) to Pray For:

WEEK 10

SOLITUDE: STUDYING OF & MEDITATING ON NEHEMIAH 2:9-20

English Standard Version (ESV)

⁹ Then I came to ^(A)the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. ¹⁰ But when ^(B)Sanballat the Horonite and ^(C)Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

¹¹ ^(D) So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. ¹² Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. ¹³ I went out by night by ^(E)the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to ^(F)the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem ^(G)that were broken down ^(H)and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. ¹⁴ Then I went on to ^(I)the Fountain Gate and to ^(J)the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. ¹⁵ Then I went up in the night ^(K)by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. ¹⁶ And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work. ¹⁷ Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, ^(L)how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer ^(M)suffer derision." ¹⁸ And I told them ^(N)of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." ^(O) So they strengthened their hands for the good work. ¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and ^(P)Geshem the Arab heard of it, ^(Q)they jeered at us and despised us and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? ^(R)Are you rebelling against the king?" ²⁰ Then I replied to them, ^(S)"The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem."

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁹ When I came to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, I delivered the king's letters to them. The king, I should add, had sent along army officers and horsemen to protect me. ¹⁰ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of my arrival, they were very displeased that someone had come to help the people of Israel.

¹¹ So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, ¹² I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem. We took no pack animals with us except the donkey I was riding. ¹³ After dark I went out through the Valley Gate, past the Jackal's Well, and over to the Dung Gate to inspect the broken walls and burned gates. ¹⁴ Then I went to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but my donkey couldn't get through the rubble. ¹⁵ So, though it was still dark, I went up the Kidron Valley instead, inspecting the wall before I turned back and entered again at the Valley Gate.

¹⁶ The city officials did not know I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders—the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration. ¹⁷ But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" ¹⁸ Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king.

They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.

¹⁹ But when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab heard of our plan, they scoffed contemptuously. "What are you doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" they asked.

²⁰ I replied, “The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall. But you have no share, legal right, or historic claim in Jerusalem.”

Cross references:

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| A) Nehemiah 2:9 : Ezra 8:36 | H) Nehemiah 2:13 : ver. 3, 17 | N) Nehemiah 2:18 : ver. 8 |
| B) Nehemiah 2:10 : ver. 19; ch. 4:1, 7; 6:1, 2, 5, 12, 14; 13:28 | I) Nehemiah 2:14 : ch. 3:15; 12:37 | O) Nehemiah 2:18 : [2 Sam. 2:7] |
| C) Nehemiah 2:10 : ch. 13:4 | J) Nehemiah 2:14 : 2 Kgs. 20:20; [ch. 3:16; 2 Chr. 32:3, 30] | P) Nehemiah 2:19 : [ch. 6:6] |
| D) Nehemiah 2:11 : Ezra 8:32 | K) Nehemiah 2:15 : 2 Sam. 15:23 | Q) Nehemiah 2:19 : ch. 4:1; Ps. 44:13 |
| E) Nehemiah 2:13 : ch. 3:13; 2 Chr. 26:9 | L) Nehemiah 2:17 : ver. 3, 13; ch. 1:3 | R) Nehemiah 2:19 : ch. 6:6 |
| F) Nehemiah 2:13 : ch. 3:13, 14; 12:31 | M) Nehemiah 2:17 : ch. 1:3; Ps. 44:13; 79:4; Jer. 24:9; Ezek. 5:14, 15; 22:4 | S) Nehemiah 2:20 : ver. 4 |
| G) Nehemiah 2:13 : ch. 1:3 | | |

WEEK 10
SOLITUDE: JOURNALING

WEEK 10

OPTIONAL: CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

- Proverbs 28
- Proverbs 29
- Proverbs 30
- Proverbs 31
- Ecclesiastes 1
- Ecclesiastes 2

OPTIONAL: JOURNALING FOR CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF GOD'S WORD

OPTIONAL: THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

PART 2 - Christ, Redemption, Grace

Q25: Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God graciously imputes Christ's righteousness to us as if it were our own and will remember our sins no more.

WEEK 10
CELEBRATION: SERMON NOTES

How will what I heard impact my life this week?

WEEK 10

CELL GROUP MEETING:

Prayerfully consider your practice of Solitude over the previous week, as well as how God spoke to you during these times. Is God inviting you to...

- Focus on your practice of "Loving God in Solitude"?
- Take a step of obedience?
- Repent from a sin?
- Trust and rest in a truth?
- Or something else?

This coming week God is inviting me to..... / My response to God's invitation is to....

How I did with last week's accountability item...



Pray for our International workers in Japan, Doug and Carol Woon

WEEK 11

SOLITUDE: STUDYING OF & MEDITATING ON NEHEMIAH 3

English Standard Version (ESV)

3 Then ^(A)Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built ^(B)the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and ^(C)set its doors. They consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the ^(D)Tower of Hananel. ² And next to him ^(E)the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

³ The sons of Hassenaah built ^(F)the Fish Gate. ^(G)They laid its beams and ^(H)set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. ⁴ And next to them ^(I)Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired. And next to them ^(J)Meshullam the son of Berechiah, son of Meshezabel repaired. And next to them Zadok the son of Baana repaired. ⁵ And next to them ^(K)the Tekoites repaired, but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord.

⁶ Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah ^(L)repaired the Gate of Yeshanah. ^(M)They laid its beams and ^(N)set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. ⁷ And next to them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, the seat of ^(O)the governor of the province Beyond the River. ⁸ Next to them Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, repaired. Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, repaired, and they restored Jerusalem as far as ^(P)the Broad Wall. ⁹ Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, ^(Q)ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired. ¹⁰ Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph repaired opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah repaired. ¹¹ Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahath-moab repaired another section and ^(R)the Tower of the Ovens. ¹² Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, ^(S)ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired, he and his daughters. ¹³ Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired ^(T)the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and ^(U)set its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and repaired a thousand cubits of the wall, as far as ^(V)the Dung Gate.

New Living Translation (NLT)

3 Then Eliashib the high priest and the other priests started to rebuild at the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set up its doors, building the wall as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and the Tower of Hananel. ² People from the town of Jericho worked next to them, and beyond them was Zaccur son of Imri.

³ The Fish Gate was built by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid the beams, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. ⁴ Meremoth son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz repaired the next section of wall. Beside him were Meshullam son of Berechiah and grandson of Meshezabel, and then Zadok son of Baana. ⁵ Next were the people from Tekoa, though their leaders refused to work with the construction supervisors.

⁶ The Old City Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid the beams, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. ⁷ Next to them were Melatiah from Gibeon, Jadon from Meronoth, people from Gibeon, and people from Mizpah, the headquarters of the governor of the province west of the Euphrates River. ⁸ Next was Uzziel son of Harhaiah, a goldsmith by trade, who also worked on the wall. Beyond him was Hananiah, a manufacturer of perfumes. They left out a section of Jerusalem as they built the Broad Wall.

⁹ Rephaiah son of Hur, the leader of half the district of Jerusalem, was next to them on the wall. ¹⁰ Next Jedaiah son of Harumaph repaired the wall across from his own house, and next to him was Hattush son of Hashabneiah. ¹¹ Then came Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-moab, who repaired another section of the wall and the Tower of the Ovens. ¹² Shallum son of Hallohesh and his daughters repaired the next section. He was the leader of the other half of the district of Jerusalem.

¹³ The Valley Gate was repaired by the people from Zanoah, led by Hanun. They set up its doors and

¹⁴ Malchijah the son of Rechab, ruler of the district of ^(W)Beth-haccherem, repaired ^(X)the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it and ^(Y)set its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

¹⁵ And Shallum the son of Col-hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah, repaired ^(Z)the Fountain Gate. He rebuilt it and covered it and ^(AA)set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. And he built the wall of ^(AB)the Pool of Shelah of ^(AC)the king's garden, as far as ^(AD)the stairs that go down from the city of David. ¹⁶ After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, ruler of half the district of Beth-zur, repaired to a point opposite ^(AE)the tombs of David, as far as ^(AF)the artificial pool, and as far as the house of the mighty men. ¹⁷ After him the Levites repaired: Rehum the son of Bani. Next to him Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, repaired for his district. ¹⁸ After him their brothers repaired: Bavvai the son of Henadad, ruler of half the district of Keilah. ¹⁹ Next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section opposite the ascent to the armory at ^(AG)the buttress. ²⁰ After him Baruch the son of Zabbai repaired another section from the buttress to the door of the house of ^(AH)Eliashib the high priest. ²¹ After him ^(AI)Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired another section from the door of the house of Eliashib to the end of the house of Eliashib. ²² After him the priests, the men of ^(AJ)the surrounding area, repaired. ²³ After them Benjamin and Hasshub repaired opposite their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah repaired beside his own house. ²⁴ After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah to the buttress and to ^(AK)the corner. ²⁵ Palal the son of Uzai repaired opposite the buttress and the tower projecting from the upper house of the king at ^(AL)the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh ²⁶ ^(AM)and the temple servants living on ^(AN)Ophel repaired to a point opposite ^(AO)the Water Gate on the east and the projecting tower. ²⁷ After him ^(AP)the Tekoites repaired another section opposite the great projecting tower as far as the wall of Ophel. ²⁸ Above ^(AQ)the Horse Gate the priests repaired, each one opposite his own house. ²⁹ After them Zadok the son of Immer repaired opposite his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, repaired. ³⁰ After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph

installed its bolts and bars. They also repaired the 1,500 feet of wall to the Dung Gate.

¹⁴ The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Recab, the leader of the Beth-hakkerem district. He rebuilt it, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars.

¹⁵ The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallum son of Col-hozeh, the leader of the Mizpah district. He rebuilt it, roofed it, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. Then he repaired the wall of the pool of Siloam near the king's garden, and he rebuilt the wall as far as the stairs that descend from the City of David. ¹⁶ Next to him was Nehemiah son of Azbuk, the leader of half the district of Beth-zur. He rebuilt the wall from a place across from the tombs of David's family as far as the water reservoir and the House of the Warriors.

¹⁷ Next to him, repairs were made by a group of Levites working under the supervision of Rehum son of Bani. Then came Hashabiah, the leader of half the district of Keilah, who supervised the building of the wall on behalf of his own district. ¹⁸ Next down the line were his countrymen led by Binnui son of Henadad, the leader of the other half of the district of Keilah.

¹⁹ Next to them, Ezer son of Jeshua, the leader of Mizpah, repaired another section of wall across from the ascent to the armory near the angle in the wall. ²⁰ Next to him was Baruch son of Zabbai, who zealously repaired an additional section from the angle to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest. ²¹ Meremoth son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz rebuilt another section of the wall extending from the door of Eliashib's house to the end of the house.

²² The next repairs were made by the priests from the surrounding region. ²³ After them, Benjamin and Hasshub repaired the section across from their house, and Azariah son of Maaseiah and grandson of Ananiah repaired the section across from his house. ²⁴ Next was Binnui son of Henadad, who rebuilt another section of the wall from Azariah's house to the angle and the corner. ²⁵ Palal son of Uzai carried on the work from a point opposite the angle and the tower that projects up from the king's upper house

repaired another section. After him ^(AR)Meshullam the son of Berechiah repaired opposite ^(AS)his chamber. ³¹ After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired as far as the house of the temple servants and of the merchants, opposite the Muster Gate, and to the upper chamber of the corner. ³² And between the upper chamber of the corner and ^(AT)the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants repaired.

beside the court of the guard. Next to him were Pedaiah son of Parosh, ²⁶ with the Temple servants living on the hill of Ophel, who repaired the wall as far as a point across from the Water Gate to the east and the projecting tower. ²⁷ Then came the people of Tekoa, who repaired another section across from the great projecting tower and over to the wall of Ophel.

²⁸ Above the Horse Gate, the priests repaired the wall. Each one repaired the section immediately across from his own house. ²⁹ Next Zadok son of Immer also rebuilt the wall across from his own house, and beyond him was Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, the gatekeeper of the East Gate. ³⁰ Next Hananiah son of Shelemiah and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section, while Meshullam son of Berechiah rebuilt the wall across from where he lived. ³¹ Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the wall as far as the housing for the Temple servants and merchants, across from the Inspection Gate. Then he continued as far as the upper room at the corner.

³² The other goldsmiths and merchants repaired the wall from that corner to the Sheep Gate.

Cross references:

A) Nehemiah 3:1 : ver. 20, 21; ch. 13:4, 7, 28
 B) Nehemiah 3:1 : ver. 32; ch. 12:39; John 5:2
 C) Nehemiah 3:1 : ch. 6:1; 7:1
 D) Nehemiah 3:1 : Jer. 31:38; Zech. 14:10
 E) Nehemiah 3:2 : Ezra 2:34
 F) Nehemiah 3:3 : ch. 12:39; 2 Chr. 33:14; Zeph. 1:10
 G) Nehemiah 3:3 : [ch. 2:8]
 H) Nehemiah 3:3 : [See ver. 1 above]; ch. 6:1; 7:1
 I) Nehemiah 3:4 : ver. 21; Ezra 8:33
 J) Nehemiah 3:4 : ver. 30; Ezra 8:16
 K) Nehemiah 3:5 : ver. 27; [2 Sam. 14:2]
 L) Nehemiah 3:6 : ch. 12:39
 M) Nehemiah 3:6 : [See ver. 3 above]; [ch. 2:8]
 N) Nehemiah 3:6 : [See ver. 1 above]; ch. 6:1; 7:1

O) Nehemiah 3:7 : ch. 2:7, 9
 P) Nehemiah 3:8 : ch. 12:38
 Q) Nehemiah 3:9 : ver. 12
 R) Nehemiah 3:11 : ch. 12:38
 S) Nehemiah 3:12 : ver. 9
 T) Nehemiah 3:13 : ch. 2:13, 15; 2 Chr. 26:9
 U) Nehemiah 3:13 : See ver. 1
 V) Nehemiah 3:13 : ch. 2:13; 12:31
 W) Nehemiah 3:14 : Jer. 6:1
 X) Nehemiah 3:14 : [See ver. 13 above]; ch. 2:13; 12:31
 Y) Nehemiah 3:14 : [See ver. 13 above]; See ver. 1
 Z) Nehemiah 3:15 : ch. 2:14
 AA) Nehemiah 3:15 : [See ver. 13 above]; See ver. 1
 AB) Nehemiah 3:15 : [Luke 13:4; John 9:7, 11]
 AC) Nehemiah 3:15 : 2 Kgs. 25:4

AD) Nehemiah 3:15 : ch. 12:37
 AE) Nehemiah 3:16 : 1 Kgs. 2:10; Acts 2:29
 AF) Nehemiah 3:16 : 2 Kgs. 20:20; Isa. 22:11
 AG) Nehemiah 3:19 : 2 Chr. 26:9
 AH) Nehemiah 3:20 : ver. 1
 AI) Nehemiah 3:21 : ver. 4
 AJ) Nehemiah 3:22 : ch. 12:28
 AK) Nehemiah 3:24 : [2 Kgs. 14:13]
 AL) Nehemiah 3:25 : Jer. 32:2; 33:1; 37:21; 38:6, 13, 28; 39:14; [ch. 12:39]
 AM) Nehemiah 3:26 : ch. 11:21
 AN) Nehemiah 3:26 : 2 Chr. 27:3
 AO) Nehemiah 3:26 : ch. 8:1, 3, 16; 12:37
 AP) Nehemiah 3:27 : ver. 5
 AQ) Nehemiah 3:28 : See 2 Chr. 23:15
 AR) Nehemiah 3:30 : ver. 4
 AS) Nehemiah 3:30 : [ch. 12:44; 13:7]
 AT) Nehemiah 3:32 : See ver. 1

WEEK 11
SOLITUDE: JOURNALING

WEEK 11**OPTIONAL: CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**

- Ecclesiastes 3
- Ecclesiastes 4
- Ecclesiastes 5
- Ecclesiastes 6
- Ecclesiastes 7
- Ecclesiastes 8

OPTIONAL: JOURNALING FOR CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF GOD'S WORD**OPTIONAL: THE NEW CITY CATECHISM**

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

PART 2 - Christ, Redemption, Grace

Q26: What else does Christ's death redeem?

Christ's death is the beginning of the redemption and renewal of every part of fallen creation, as he powerfully directs all things for his own glory and creation's good.

WEEK 11
CELEBRATION: SERMON NOTES

How will what I heard impact my life this week?

WEEK 11

CELL GROUP MEETING:

Prayerfully consider your practice of Solitude over the previous week, as well as how God spoke to you during these times. Is God inviting you to...

- Focus on your practice of "Loving God in Solitude"?
- Take a step of obedience?
- Repent from a sin?
- Trust and rest in a truth?
- Or something else?

This coming week God is inviting me to..... / My response to God's invitation is to....

How I did with last week's accountability item...



Pray for our International workers in Japan, Doug and Carol Woon

WEEK 12 (REFLECTION WEEK)

SOLITUDE: STUDYING OF & MEDITATING ON NEHEMIAH 4

English Standard Version (ESV)

4 Now when ^(A)Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of ^(B)Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?” ³ ^(C)Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—^(D)if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!” ⁴ ^(E)Hear, O our God, for we are despised. ^(F)Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. ⁵ ^(G)Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.

⁶ So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

⁷ But when ^(H)Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ ^(I)And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. ⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

¹⁰ In Judah it was said, “The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall.” ¹¹ And our enemies said, “They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work.” ¹² At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, “You must return to us.” ¹³ So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the

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4 Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, ² saying in front of his friends and the Samaritan army officers, “What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they’re doing? Do they think they can build the wall in a single day by just offering a few sacrifices? Do they actually think they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap—and charred ones at that?”

³ Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, “That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!”

⁴ Then I prayed, “Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads, and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land! ⁵ Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot out their sins, for they have provoked you to anger here in front of the builders.”

⁶ At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm.

⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall of Jerusalem were being repaired, they were furious. ⁸ They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion. ⁹ But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.

¹⁰ Then the people of Judah began to complain, “The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves.”

people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. ¹⁴ And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, ^(J)“Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, ^(K)who is great and awesome, ^(L)and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that it was known to us ^(M)and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. ¹⁶ From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and ^(N)coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, ¹⁷ who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other. ¹⁸ And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me. ¹⁹ And I said to ^(O)the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. ²⁰ In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. ^(P)Our God will fight for us.”

²¹ So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out. ²² I also said to the people at that time, “Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day.” ²³ So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; ^(Q)each kept his weapon at his right hand.

¹¹ Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, “Before they know what’s happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work.”

¹² The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, “They will come from all directions and attack us!” ¹³ So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows.

¹⁴ Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, “Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that we knew of their plans and that God had frustrated them, we all returned to our work on the wall. ¹⁶ But from then on, only half my men worked while the other half stood guard with spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. The leaders stationed themselves behind the people of Judah ¹⁷ who were building the wall. The laborers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon. ¹⁸ All the builders had a sword belted to their side. The trumpeter stayed with me to sound the alarm.

¹⁹ Then I explained to the nobles and officials and all the people, “The work is very spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. ²⁰ When you hear the blast of the trumpet, rush to wherever it is sounding. Then our God will fight for us!”

²¹ We worked early and late, from sunrise to sunset. And half the men were always on guard. ²² I also told everyone living outside the walls to stay in Jerusalem. That way they and their servants could help with guard duty at night and work during the day. ²³ During this time, none of us—not I, nor my relatives, nor my servants, nor the guards who were with me—ever took off our clothes. We carried our weapons with us at all times, even when we went for water.

Cross references:

A) Nehemiah 4:1 : ver. 7; ch. 2:10, 19
 B) Nehemiah 4:2 : 1 Kgs. 16:24
 C) Nehemiah 4:3 : [See ver. 1 above]; ver. 7; ch. 2:10, 19
 D) Nehemiah 4:3 : [Lam. 5:18]
 E) Nehemiah 4:4 : Ps. 123:3, 4
 F) Nehemiah 4:4 : Ps. 79:12

G) Nehemiah 4:5 : Ps. 69:27, 28; 109:14, 15; Jer. 18:23
 H) Nehemiah 4:7 : [See ver. 1 above]; ver. 7; ch. 2:10, 19
 I) Nehemiah 4:8 : See Ps. 83:3-5
 J) Nehemiah 4:14 : [Num. 14:9]; Deut. 1:29
 K) Nehemiah 4:14 : Deut. 7:21; 10:17

L) Nehemiah 4:14 : 2 Sam. 10:12
 M) Nehemiah 4:15 : [Job 5:12]
 N) Nehemiah 4:16 : 2 Chr. 26:14
 O) Nehemiah 4:19 : ver. 14
 P) Nehemiah 4:20 : Ex. 14:14, 25; Deut. 1:30; 3:22; 20:4; Josh. 23:10
 Q) Nehemiah 4:23 : ver. 17

OPTIONAL: STUDY HELP QUESTIONS:

1. *Is the Christian life more passive (comfort, safety, tradition), or more active (fight, race, build, grow)?*
2. *(v.9) How do prayer and action work together?*
3. *(v.17) How is this a fitting metaphor for the Christian life? How are we called to build? How are we called to defend?*
4. *What does this passage teach you about God?*
5. *What does this passage teach you about yourself?*

Based upon what you have discovered from your reflection exercise, consider what God's invitation to you is. Write down your response, a way that you can more fully join Him in what He is doing in your life.

Father, I see where you have been, and continue to be, at work in my life and I will join You in this by.... _____

A NOTE TO THE LEADERS:

This reflection exercise is a very important part of the process of hearing from God and responding back to Him. It requires unhurried time for each person to share, interact with one another and prayer for each person specifically. Therefore, you are encouraged to allocate sufficient time to the accountability portion of your meeting (approx. 15-20 minutes per person). Depending on the size of your accountability groups, you may need to invest your full cell group meeting to this.

WEEK 12
SOLITUDE: JOURNALING

WEEK 12

OPTIONAL: CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

- Ecclesiastes 9
- Ecclesiastes 10
- Ecclesiastes 11
- Ecclesiastes 12
- Song of Songs 1
- Song of Songs 2

OPTIONAL: JOURNALING FOR CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF GOD'S WORD

OPTIONAL: THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

PART 2 - Christ, Redemption, Grace

Q27: Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith. Nevertheless God in his mercy demonstrates common grace even to those who are not elect, by restraining the effects of sin and enabling works of culture for human well-being.

WEEK 12
CELEBRATION: SERMON NOTES

How will what I heard impact my life this week?

WEEK 12

GROUP ACCOUNTABILITY & PRAYER (30-45 MINUTES)

Work through the following three steps focusing on one person at a time. Plan to take 10-15 minutes per person.

STEP 1: PERSONAL SHARING: One person shares what they've discovered through the reflection exercise by reading his/her answers to the 3 questions listed.

STEP 2: GROUP FEEDBACK/INPUT: Group members take a few minutes to respond back to what has been shared and other patterns they are seeing of how God is at work in the life of this person. This input and feedback, whether it is in the form of a word of affirmation, sharing a new idea or perspective, gently challenging, asking a question, etc. will help to shed further light on how God has been at work in this individual's life.

STEP 3: PRAYER: One or two group members pray for the person who has shared.



Pray for our International workers in Congo, Dave and Theresa Bill

Date	Item of prayer	Date answered

