

Sermon for Oct 7 & 8, 2023



SMALL GROUPS

Share Life | Pursue God | Invest In Others

THREE THINGS TO KNOW

DON'T MISS THIS. Bring your costumed kids for candy + fun at our children's ministry **TRUNK OR TREAT**. Join us at the Cascade, Kentwood or combined East Paris/Knapp Street at Knapp Street Campus for the perfect non-scary night of celebration for our community on October 27 from 6:30-8 pm. We are also looking for **CAR HOSTS**. Invite your small group to decorate cars and hand out candy. Bring your own candy or we'll provide. Visit adabible.info to sign up to attend or host a car.

GROUP VALUES. This October, we are focusing on the value of **SERVING**. Scripture teaches we are *created*, *called* and *gifted* to serve in the church. Serving is also our monthly spiritual practice focus in *Beyond the Weekend*. Read our October 2 devotional [HERE](#) and discuss ways your group can begin or continue serving in the church.

GROW AS A LEADER. Have you checked out Right Now Media? We provide our leaders access to this great library of small-group content. We recently published a new video series on the site called "The Gospel and Your Story." If you need access, please reach out to your staff contact. We'd love to connect you to this great resource.

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Welcome to our new sermon series [REBUILD](#). This week, we look at Nehemiah's response to distressing news and his prayer to God in Nehemiah 1.

What is some good news you've received recently?

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Have someone read [Nehemiah 1](#) aloud.

What news does Nehemiah receive in this passage?

What emotions does Nehemiah exhibit?

What actions do you see Nehemiah take in response to this news?

THIS WEEK'S SERMON

Pastor Jeff Manion began our new series called **REBUILD** by looking at the news Nehemiah received and his response found in Nehemiah 1. As a group, name his main points.

Which part of the sermon most encouraged or challenged you, and why?

Nehemiah recognizes that his people's situation in Jerusalem "isn't the way it's supposed to be." What situations do we encounter today that aren't supposed to be this way?

Nehemiah begins his prayer by recognizing God's character. What aspects of God's character have helped you turn to him during breaking points?

Nehemiah owns his part in the problem. Are you more likely to pass the blame and not own your part in a situation, or do you recognize your part and confess it, and why?

Is there a situation where God is calling you to own your part and ask for his forgiveness? If you are comfortable, share with the group and commit to praying for each other this week.

Part of God's character is showing mercy, restoring and welcoming people home. How have you seen this to be true in your life?

Nehemiah asks God to help him be part of the solution. Where might God invite you to be part of the solution, and what do you sense he may desire to do through you?

Is there anything else about the sermon you wanted to talk about?

WRAP UP

Today, we looked at the hard news Nehemiah received and his response in Nehemiah 1. What is one thing you'd like to do differently this week based on our discussion?