

## GBC Discipleship RESOURCE



# Renovation: Rebuilding for Purpose

## Week 02 | Confidence in God's Plans (Nehemiah 2:1-10)

*For a brief overview of why (and how) to engage in each of these practices, you can read the Guideline For Growing on our website.*

<https://www.gymeabaptist.org.au/growing/pages/guideline-for-growing>

## WHAT IS A DISCIPLESHIP MENU?

A discipleship menu is a selection of discipleship activities to engage in to continue the conversation that begins on Sunday throughout the week. The aim is to extend our interaction as a community of faith around activities that help us follow Jesus every single day. The activities vary from week to week (though there are some standard activities) and you are encouraged to do as many as you find helpful (like a menu; you don't need to eat everything on it!). Do them on your own (God and you), with a couple of friends (you and a few), or in a Life Group (you and a crew). The important thing is to do a few!

# GBC SERMON PODCAST AND THE BIG 3 PODCAST

As always, you may want to review this week's sermon and you can listen to it again on the GBC Sermon Podcast. The sermon is usually uploaded by Monday afternoon. You can also listen in to the Big 3 podcast; a weekly podcast where Matt, Jess, and Marc sit down and continue the conversation by engaging in three big questions raised by the congregation about the sermon. The Big 3 comes out on Wednesdays.

## OVERVIEW

In this week's text Nehemiah puts his courageous plan into action and approaches the king with a series of requests that essentially equate to him being named governor of Judah and being given authority to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (the same walls Artaxerxes had had torn down; See Ezra 4:6-23). And, 'because the gracious hand of his God was upon him' (2:8), every request was granted!

One of the interesting themes of Nehemiah is the interaction between Nehemiah's reliance on the Lord (four months of prayer, an 'arrow' prayer during his conversation with the king, and open eyes to see God at work) and his actions (his selection of the day to approach the king, the decision to be sad in the king's presence, and his list of requirements). The interesting thing is how Nehemiah knows that his actions are what God is inviting him to do? There is no angelic visitation, no prophetic word, no vision, etc., to guide him and yet he is confident that what he is doing is God's plan.

This is often our own situation as followers of Jesus; we seek to trust God's leading and seek to act in ways that we believe are aligned to God. How can we be confident in our actions? The heart of the lesson from Nehemiah's

experience is the delay of the action so that we can focus on God's character and purposes and spend enough time listening for the voice of God. Our menu this week is focused on some practices that may help us in this difficult discipleship lesson.

## PASSAGES TO READ

We believe that the Word of God is living and active and that reading and reflecting on it is one way we encounter God. As you read we encourage people to ask a set of simple questions: What stands out to you? What questions do you have? What is the invitation of God to you? Who can you tell?

The passages this week have been chosen because they focus on God's people making decisions about how to act; some with clear, divine leading, and some without.

- Nehemiah 2:1-10
- Acts 16:6-10
- 1 Kings 19:14-21
- Genesis 12:1-9
- Matthew 28:16-20
- 1 Samuel 14:1-14

## QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON

These questions can be used as the basis of a small group discussion or as journal questions. As with the rest of this menu, use the questions that are most useful for you or your crew. Note: Some of these questions have been taken and adapted from Adele Calhoun's book *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook* (2015, IVP: Downer's Grove)

1. Do you believe that God has only one perfect blueprint for your life? Why or why not?
2. What do you see as the role of the mind in making decisions?
3. What do you see as the role of the heart in making decisions?
4. Reflect on a major decision you have made in the past. What was your decision-making process?
5. When making decisions, do you procrastinate or become so uncomfortable with waiting that you jump in and decide so you don't have to endure uncertainty? How does this affect your ability to discern God's voice?

## A PRAYER TO PRAY

As a community of faith we are beginning a year-long process of discernment in which we will be seeking to hear God's invitation to us. Pray that we, as individuals and as a community, might be open to hear from God.

Note: There are a number of specific prayer points we have recommended (and you can find them in [The Long Read](#)).