

Life Group Leader Notes

January 12, 2025

Nehemiah 2: How to Step into Your Purpose

Three Big Ideas on Purpose:

- **Purpose** is often birthed out of **Pain**.
- **Purpose** is better than **Privilege**.
- **Purpose** is about **Helping People**.

Discussion: What's bothering you?

1. Wait in Prayer.

Nehemiah waited 4 months before asking the king if he could rebuild the city in which he grew up.

The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven,⁵ and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.

Nehemiah 2: 4

Discussion: How do you seek God?

2. Plan in Prayer.

Nehemiah needed to pray in the moment to God asking for His help in the king's presence. **Moment** prayers are fueled by your time alone in your prayer closet. *so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart." I was very much afraid,³ but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"⁴ The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven,⁵ and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it."⁶ Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.⁷ I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah?*

Nehemiah 2: 2-7

Discussion: Do you pray Moment Prayers?

Discussion: What are you working on while you wait for God?

3. Evaluate in Prayer.

Evaluate in secret what you are going to do. Don't worry what others think. Don't put your purpose on social media/facebook!

I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

Nehemiah 2: 12

The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work. *Nehemiah 2: 16*

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. *Mark 1: 35*

4. Identify with People in their Problems.

For God given purpose is about helping people.

Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”¹⁸ I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.

Nehemiah 2: 17-18

Discussion: Who can you help in your life?

5. Expect some Opposition.

Don't debate with your enemies. Paul and Jesus faced opposition. Follow their example.

But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?”

²⁰ I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.” *Nehemiah 2: 19-20*

Discussion: In 2025, what door in your life needs to be opened? What door needs to be closed?

Let us pray that the good hand of our Lord is upon us at Waters Church and that He opens doors that no man can close. *Revelation 3: 8*

Let God Use You...Expect Great Things this Year!