making room

SO MORE WOULD KNOW

Devotional Series

Week 2: A Vision Worth Pursuing

Defining Question: "What could God do?"

Prayer Challenge: Give God your eyes. Ask Him: "Lord, help me see what You see. Help me to see the grand picture of what You could do."

Day 8: The King Asks

Scripture: *"In the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, when wine was before him, I picked up the wine, and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad before in his presence. The king said to me, 'Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing else but sorrow of heart.' Then I was very much afraid. I said to the king, 'Let the king live forever! Why shouldn't my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates have been consumed with fire?' Then the king said to me, 'What is your request?'"* - Nehemiah 2:1-4

Reflection: Last week we sat with Nehemiah's broken heart. He wept. He fasted. He confessed. And now - after months of prayer - he's standing before the king, and his sadness shows.

The king notices. "Why is your face sad?" And Nehemiah is terrified. In that culture, showing grief before a king could cost you everything. But here's what I love: Nehemiah doesn't hide. He tells the truth. The city is in ruins. The gates are burned. And the king asks a question that changes everything: *"What is your request?"*

I wonder if God is asking us the same thing right now. Not because He doesn't know what we need. But because He wants us to articulate it. To say it out loud. To move from vague longing to specific faith.

What is your request? What could God do through this church if we stopped whispering our dreams and started speaking them?

Takeaway: God often opens doors when we're honest about what breaks our hearts. What would you ask for if the King said, "What is your request?"

Prayer: *God, I give You my eyes. Help me see what You see. Help me to see the grand picture of what You could do. Give me the courage to speak my request out loud. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Day 9: The Green Light

Scripture: *"I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you would send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may build it.' The king said to me (the queen was also sitting by him), 'How long will your journey be? When will you return?' So it pleased the king to send me, and I set a time for him."* - Nehemiah 2:5-6

Reflection: Yesterday the king asked, "What is your request?" Today Nehemiah answers - and he doesn't ask for a small thing. He asks to leave Persia, travel to a ruined city, and rebuild it.

And the king says yes.

But notice what Nehemiah doesn't say. He doesn't say, "I have a twelve-step plan." He doesn't present a feasibility study. He says, "Send me. I want to build." And the king's response is practical: "How long? When will you return?"

Sometimes obedience is that simple. You don't need every detail before you step forward. You need a heart that says yes and a willingness to set a timeline.

I think about where we are as a church. God has been stirring something. The vision is forming. And now the question is: will we step into it? Will we say, "Send me - I want to build"?

Takeaway: You don't need a perfect plan to take the first step. You need a willing heart and a "yes" on your lips.

Prayer: *God, I give You my eyes. Help me see what You see. Help me to see the grand picture of what You could do. I say yes - send me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Day 10: Letters and Timber

Scripture: *"Moreover I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah; 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 the citadel by the temple, for the wall of the city, and for the house that I will occupy.' The king granted my requests, because of the good hand of my God on me."* - Nehemiah 2:7-8

Reflection: Nehemiah doesn't just get permission. He gets provision. Letters of authority. Access to timber. Resources for the project.

And notice the reason: *"Because of the good hand of my God on me."*

That phrase shows up throughout Nehemiah. It's not about Nehemiah's charm or strategy. It's about God's favor. When God calls you to build, He doesn't just give you the vision - He provides the resources.

I've seen this play out in our church. Doors opening that we didn't expect. People showing up with exactly what we needed. Provision arriving right on time - not early, not late. Right on time.

What could God do if we trusted His hand more than our bank accounts? What if the resources are already in motion, and we just need to ask?

Takeaway: When God calls you to build, He provides the resources. His hand is on this. Trust it.

Prayer: *God, I give You my eyes. Help me see what You see. Help me to see the grand picture of what You could do. I trust Your provision more than my own calculations. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Day 11: When Enemies Hear the News

Scripture: *"When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly, because a man had come to seek the welfare of the children of Israel."* - Nehemiah 2:10

Reflection: Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem, and the first thing we learn is that his enemies are already paying attention.

Sanballat and Tobiah aren't happy. They don't want Israel to succeed. They don't want the walls rebuilt. They don't want this city to thrive. And they're watching.

I don't say this to be dramatic. But when you commit to something significant - when you go all in on a vision from God - opposition shows up. It might be a voice in your head saying, "You can't afford this." It might be a circumstance that feels like a door slamming shut. It might be a person who questions your judgment.

The enemy doesn't waste energy on churches that aren't going anywhere. If you're facing resistance, it might be because you're onto something.

Takeaway: Opposition often confirms you're moving in the right direction. Don't let it stop you - let it sharpen you.

Prayer: *God, I give You my eyes. Help me see what You see. Help me to see the grand picture of what You could do. When opposition comes, help me see it as confirmation, not discouragement. In Jesus' name, Amen*.

Day 12: Night Inspection

Scripture: *"I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. I didn't tell anyone what my God put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There wasn't any animal with me except the animal that I rode on. I went out by night by the valley gate toward the jackal's well, then to the dung gate; and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and its gates were consumed with fire."* - Nehemiah 2:12-13

Reflection: Nehemiah doesn't announce his vision to a crowd. He takes a few trusted people and goes out at night to see the damage for himself.

I love this. Before he builds, he inspects. Before he casts vision, he gets honest about the current reality. He walks the broken walls in the dark. He sees the rubble up close. He doesn't sugarcoat it.

That's what making room requires. Honest assessment. Not pretending everything is fine. Not ignoring the hard parts. Looking at the broken walls and saying, "This is where we are. Now let's talk about where we're going."

Sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is take a night walk through your own rubble - personally and corporately - and get clear about what needs to be rebuilt.

Takeaway: Vision requires honesty. Before you build, inspect. Before you dream, get clear about where you are.

Prayer: *God, I give You my eyes. Help me see what You see. Help me to see the grand picture of what You could do - and give me the courage to see the broken places honestly. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Day 13: Let's Rise Up

Scripture: *"Then I said to them, 'You see the bad situation that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come, let's build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we won't be disgraced.' I told them about the hand of my God which was good on me, and also about the king's words that he had spoken to me. They said, 'Let's rise up and build.' So they strengthened their hands for the good work."* - Nehemiah 2:17-18

Reflection: Nehemiah shows the people the broken walls. He tells them what God has done. And they respond with four words that change everything: *"Let's rise up and build."*

Not "Let's think about it." Not "Let's form a committee." Not "Let's wait for better circumstances." *Let's rise up and build.*

There's something powerful about a community that catches a vision together. It's not one person carrying the weight. It's a whole church saying, "We see it. We believe it. We're in."

That's what I'm praying for in this campaign. Not just individual generosity - collective vision. A church that rises up together and says, "We're building this. Not someday. Now."

Takeaway: Vision multiplies when it's shared. When a whole community says "yes," mountains move.

Prayer: *God, I give You my eyes. Help me see what You see. Help me to see the grand picture of what You could do - and let me be part of a community that rises up together. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Day 14: No Portion Here

Scripture: *"But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite servant, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they ridiculed us and despised us, and said, 'What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?' Then I answered them, and said to them, 'The God of heaven will prosper us. Therefore we, his servants, will arise and build; but you have no portion, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem."* - Nehemiah 2:19-20

Reflection: The mockers show up. Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem - they ridicule, they despise, they accuse. "Will you rebel against the king?" They try to make the vision look foolish, dangerous, rebellious.

And Nehemiah's response is one of the most powerful lines in all of Scripture: *"The God of heaven will prosper us. Therefore we, his servants, will arise and build; but you have no portion, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem."*

He doesn't argue. He doesn't defend. He declares. He draws a line. He says, in essence: "Your opinion doesn't get a vote here. God is building this. We're building this. And you don't get a say in it."

That's the kind of faith this campaign requires. Not arrogance. Not defensiveness. Just a quiet, immovable conviction that God has spoken and we're moving forward. Life to the full doesn't come from playing it safe. It comes from building what God has called you to build - regardless of who's watching.

Takeaway: When mockers show up, you don't owe them an argument. You owe them a declaration. God will prosper this work.

Prayer: *God, I give You my eyes. Help me see what You see. Help me to see the grand picture of what You could do. When the voices of doubt rise up - my own included - remind me that You will prosper this work. I'm all in. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

This devotional series is part of the "Making Room" Capital Campaign at Grace Covenant Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia. For more information or to participate, visit gcch.org/mr or contact the Church Office via email: questions@gcch.org or by phone: (540) 433-9244.

