



People of faith do not settle for the way things are. They pursue the way things ought to be. Using the book of Nehemiah as an example, this series will explore what it means for the Hills Church to commit to a vision of the future that blesses nations and generations.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Rick began by reminding us that “*Big plans need big prayers... And the first step to building a future is laying a foundation of prayer.*” As you think about our next vision, why is that statement so true? **PRAY:** As you begin, **Ask for Nations & Generations** and commit to using the Prayer Guide for the next 40 days.

2 WHAT NEHEMIAH DID... Read Nehemiah 1:1-4. Nehemiah responded to the news about Jerusalem by mourning, fasting, and praying for days. Why did he respond in that way? What is the lesson for us from his example?

3 Vision is fueled by prayer. *When it comes to building a future, prayer is not the last resort; it is the first priority.* **Read Nehemiah 1:5-11.** What did Nehemiah’s prayer reveal about the character of God and about Nehemiah? Why does that matter? Follow up: Respond to this question Rick asked, *Could it be that the greatest obstacle to a thriving future is not the wickedness of the world but the prayerlessness of the church?*

4 WHAT PRAYER DOES... Prayer fuels our awareness of the problem. *Privilege and position allow a person to isolate themselves from the problems of others. How could Nehemiah have easily done that? How has prayer fueled your awareness of a problem? Follow up: Prayer will help you own the sins of past generations for the sake of the welfare of future generations.* **Read Nehemiah 1:6; 9:1-3, 16-17, and 34-37.** What stands out to you from these verses? What is one thing we can learn from their example?

5 WHAT PRAYER DOES... Prayer fuels the boldness of our goals. *Prayer is asking God to enter history and do what He wants to do. How did Nehemiah’s belief in God impact the boldness of his goals? How does prayer deny the authority of the world (see **Acts 4:24-25**)? Follow up: Share an example of how you’ve experienced God’s willingness to be as active in your present as He was in the past and will be in the future.*

6 WHAT PRAYER DOES... Prayer fuels our willingness to engage. *Prayer will take you out of your comfort zone. How was that true in Nehemiah’s case and how has that been true for you? Follow up: Nehemiah used the vocation God had given him to make an eternal impact. With that in mind, what is one step of obedience you could take to engage God’s mission this week?*

7 Rick closed by reminding us that **GOD WILL DO more than we ask...if we ask more.** *So we ask for nations and generations. We launch our vision with prayer; we sustain our vision by praying; we will accomplish our vision because we prayed.* What encourages you the most about this call to pray? As you close, spend some time praying together with this vision in mind. You can find a digital copy of the Nations & Generations Prayer Guide here: nationsandgenerations.org/prayerguide

