



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 What stuck with you most from this weekend's message and why?

2 Read Nehemiah 2:1-6. By bringing up the city of Jerusalem, Nehemiah was taking a big risk. To understand what happened earlier in the king's reign, **read Ezra 4:15-22.** Local leaders had already spoken against Jerusalem and this same king had ordered building to stop. But when God gives a vision, people of faith say, **"It's worth the risk."** What risks have you seen someone take to follow God? What's the difference between being foolish and taking a strategic risk? Is there anything God is calling you to do that involves some risk?

3 Read Nehemiah 2:7-10. Nehemiah spent four months praying, but he was also planning. He knew what it would take, even though he didn't know how he'd get what he needed. But faith leads us to **plan like God can handle it.** Are you asking God for anything you aren't ready to receive? What steps can you take to plan or prepare in expectation that God will move? How can we expect God to move without presuming we know what He's going to do?

4 Read Nehemiah 2:11-20. Works of restoration only start in broken places. But no matter the condition of things **it's not too messy for God.** How do you naturally react to messy situations - whether it's conflict or hurt feelings or socially awkward moments? How did Jesus react to messy situations? What is a potentially messy situation God is asking you to step into?

5 Bonus question: *Look back at verse 12. It's God's vision on Nehemiah's heart for the city of Jerusalem. What God puts on our heart is rarely just for us. Is there anything God has put on your heart for someone else or for a community of people? Pray about those burdens together.*

