



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 pointing out that *“It will take great perseverance to build the future we believe God is calling us to pursue.”* What are some of the reasons that is true? Describe a situation you experienced where you had to persevere and share why that mattered.

2 WHY VISION LEAKS... Vision is easier to launch than to achieve. Rick mentioned 3 primary reasons that vision leaks (1) the *“new wears off,* (2) *critics wear you out (see Nehemiah 4:1-5),* and (3) *good people wear down.* Which of these 3 are most likely to trip you up? Follow up: Share about a time when you failed to finish an important project. What distracted you from completing the task?

3 Read Nehemiah 4:6-20. What stands out to you the most from these verses? Rick went on to note that **Vision takes the path of most persistence.** How was this the case for Nehemiah (note: his book doesn't record a single supernatural event)? How can his example encourage us with our vision in mind?

4 HOW VISION LASTS... Keep the focus on God. *Nehemiah kept reminding the people that they were not building a great wall as much as they were building a wall for a great God. Read Nehemiah 4:14, 20.* What are some practical ways we can keep our focus on God while doing the work He's called us to do? How might your prayer life need to change? Follow up: **Read Romans 8:31-32.** How can the amazing truths found in these verses help us persevere when we are tempted to lose focus?

5 HOW VISION LASTS... Make the future about others. *One of the most important responsibilities of leadership is to help people “remember the why?”* With that in mind, what else did Nehemiah remind them of at the end of **4:14**? Follow up: How can this encourage us to “remember the why?” as we **Ask for Nations & Generations?**

6 HOW VISION LASTS... Sustain the builders with encouragement. *Nehemiah knew that loneliness increases the feelings of weariness, so he took concrete steps to increase the feeling that “we are in this together.”* What steps did Nehemiah take to encourage the builders? Follow up: **Read Hebrews 10:24-25.** What are some specific next steps we can take to relentlessly encourage each other during the next 5 years?

7 Rick closed by reminding us that *“Most of us are here today because someone didn't quit.”* Share an example from your life about a person who never gave up on you. Follow up: Who is that “one” in your life that you will continue to persevere for?

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

