



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 noting that *“If a team, an organization, or a church is going to build a better future, there cannot be a lot of competing agendas.”* Share about a time when competing agendas distracted you from finishing a task. Follow up: Rick went on to say, *“It is easier today to be distracted than ever before... and that **distraction** leads to **destruction**.”* When have you experienced this to be true? What did you lose as a result?

2 MISSION DRIFT? Read Nehemiah 6:1-14. What obstacles did Nehemiah face as he tried to lead his people? What stands out to you the most about how he handled them? Follow up: Of the three specific attacks Nehemiah faced—distraction, speculation, and intimidation—which most often traps you, and why do you think that is such an issue for you?

3 Read Nehemiah 6:15-19. What was the response of Israel’s enemies to the completed wall? When have you seen a great accomplishment lead others to recognize God and His power?

4 MISSION LIFT! Focus on pursuing the vision. *It is easier to say “no” when you have a strong, clear “yes.”* How has this been true on a personal level? Follow up: In what ways does our Mission (Make & Grow Followers of Jesus) and Vision (Ask for Nations & Generations) as a church help us stay focused on the great work we’ve been called to do?

5 MISSION LIFT! Focus on protecting your character. *Nehemiah never focused on results at the expense of obedience.* **Read Nehemiah 6:5-8.** What were his critics trying to do by sending an “unsealed letter”? What kept these insinuations from gaining much traction? Follow up: Why is character attack such a useful approach, especially when trying to cancel someone’s ministry? Take a moment to pray for the character of our church leaders.

6 MISSION LIFT! Focus on praying for focus. *Nehemiah had a robust prayer life.* Read Nehemiah’s prayer in **verse 9** again. It is remarkable that in the face of such personal attacks, Nehemiah prayed for God’s strength to continue. What does this show about Nehemiah’s faith and focus? Follow up: How should this change your prayer life?

7 Rick closed by reminding us that *“Jesus was the most focused person who ever lived.”* **Read Luke 9:51.** What resonates with you the most about how Jesus kept his focus on his Father’s mission? How does his example and what we learned from Nehemiah’s story encourage you to do the same? Share one key thing you can apply from this message.

Spend some time praying together with our vision in mind. You can find the Nations & Generations Prayer Guide here: nationsandgenerations.org/prayerguide

