

CHANGE YOUR WORLD IN 52 DAYS—1 ORDINARY WORLD CHANGERS

The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, 2 Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. 3 They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." 4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.
Nehemiah 1:1-4

ORDINARY WORLD CHANGERS

1) SIT DOWN TO CRY.

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. Nehemiah 1:4

- **WHAT BREAKS YOUR HEART?**
-
-

2) KNEEL DOWN TO PRAY.

...For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.
Nehemiah 1:4

3) STAND UP TO ACT.

...I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" 4 The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, 5 and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it." Nehemiah 2:3-5

TALK IT OVER

- What breaks your heart? How has having this burden impacted you?
- What's your next step towards taking action on your burden?
- Take time to pray about your burden this week and allow God to direct your next steps.

Find your next steps towards becoming a world-changer by using the resources available at <http://resources.lifechurch.tv> including a printable LifeGroup discussion guide for this message.



ORDINARY WORLD CHANGERS - WEEK 1

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- Who is someone you feel is a great example of a world-changer? What is it about this person that inspires you?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Nehemiah 1:1-11.

In this passage, Nehemiah is heartbroken by the fact that the wall and gates of Jerusalem were destroyed.

- What breaks your heart and stirs righteous anger within you?
- How has your burden impacted you emotionally and spiritually?
- In what ways have you seen God use you and those around you to impact others in a positive way?
- What keeps you from taking action on your burden? What do you need to do to remove these barriers?

Read Nehemiah 2:1-10.

Nehemiah decides to act on his burden by committing to rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

- What challenges are you facing that you need to take to God in prayer in the way Nehemiah did with his burden?
- How is God stirring you to take action on your burden? What's your next step?
- Who are some people you'll need with you to change the world?
- What impact on others do you think you could make if you decided to address your burden and take action?

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you recognize your burden and take action towards changing your world.

Nehemiah is the perfect example of how an ordinary person changed his world by doing something extraordinary—rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem in just 52 days. During this series, read through the Book of Nehemiah and learn directly from the Bible how you can become a world-changer. This week read Nehemiah Chapters 1, 2, and 3 and allow God to speak to you as you read.

Take time this week to learn from the examples of ordinary people who changed their world through their actions by watching the World Changers message series at <http://www.lifechurch.tv/watch/world-changers>. In this series, Pastor Craig examines the lives of John Wesley, Charles Finney, Charles Spurgeon, and Dwight L. Moody and the long-lasting impact they made on God's Kingdom.

5-Day Micro Devotional:

- Ask God to break your heart for what breaks His heart.
- Tell God what is keeping you from taking action on your burden. Ask Him to remove these barriers.
- Ask God to show you the steps you need to take in addressing your burden.
- Ask God to help guide you as you take your next steps towards doing something to change the world.
- Ask God to send the right people into your life that will help you address your burden.

**CHANGE YOUR WORLD IN 52 DAYS—2
THE LEADER IN YOU**

TALK IT OVER

- **TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THE BEST. YOU JUST HAVE TO CARE THE MOST.**

A “CHANGE YOUR WORLD” LEADER

1) DEFINES THE MISSION CLEARLY.

The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, 5 and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild (the wall)." Nehemiah 2:4-5

- **WHAT IS GOD LEADING YOU TO DO?**
-
-
-

2) MAKES PLANS CAREFULLY.

...It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. 7 I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? 8 And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates...and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" Nehemiah 2:6-8

3) INSPIRES PEOPLE PASSIONATELY.

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." 18 I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work." Nehemiah 2:17-18

- What's God leading you to do? Clearly define your mission.
- What plans do you need to carefully make to carry out your mission? What is your next step?
- Who are some people you will need to carry out your mission? How will you inspire them to action?

Find your next steps towards becoming a world-changer by using the resources available at <http://resources.lifechurch.tv> including a printable LifeGroup discussion guide for this message.



THE LEADER IN YOU - WEEK 2

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- How well do you typically follow through on your plans? What helps you accomplish your goals?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Nehemiah 2:1-20.

In this passage, Nehemiah becomes a "change your world leader" by clearly defining his mission of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, carefully making his plans, and inspiring others to assist him.

- Why do so many of us have such a hard time seeing ourselves as world-changing leaders?
- How do you typically respond when you are passionate about something?
- What is God leading you to do? Define your mission as clearly as you can.
- What do you think made Nehemiah such a great leader? How can you apply these qualities in becoming a "change your world leader"?
- What do the words destiny and purpose mean to you?
- Nehemiah overcame his fears to carry out his mission. What fears are keeping you from carrying out yours?
- Why do you think Nehemiah was so confident that God would grant him success in his mission? How confident are you that you will succeed?
- How will you inspire others to help you carry out your mission?

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you define your mission and take your next steps.

Nehemiah became the perfect example of how an ordinary person changed his world when he rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem in just 52 days. During this series, read through the Book of Nehemiah and learn directly from God's Word how you can become a world-changer. This week, read Nehemiah 4, 5, and 6 and allow God to speak to you as you read His Word.

Define your mission and create a plan that will enable you to carry out your mission by going through The Chazown Experience. In The Chazown Experience, you will work towards uncovering God's vision for your life and set goals that will help you live out that vision. You can go through the experience on your own at www.chazown.com, with your LifeGroup, or at your campus. You can download the videos and participant and leader guides for your group at the Chazown website.

5-Day Micro Devotional:

- Ask God what He wants you to do and to show you the mission that He has designed just for you.
- Share with God the things you are passionate about. Ask God to show you how you can make a difference in those areas.
- Tell God those fears that are holding you back from carrying out your mission. Ask Him to remove all these fears.
- Ask God to guide you as you carefully make plans to carry out your mission.
- Ask God to equip you with the right people to help you make a difference in your world. Ask God for the strength to inspire them.

CHANGE YOUR WORLD IN 52 DAYS—3 DEFEATING DISCOURAGEMENT

- **WE DON'T FACE OPPOSITION BECAUSE WE'RE DOING SOMETHING WRONG, WE FACE IT BECAUSE WE'RE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT.**

YOUR ENEMY WILL ATTEMPT TO

1) **DISCOURAGE YOU FROM THE OUTSIDE.**

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, 2 and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble — burned as they are?" 3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building — if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!" Nehemiah 4:1-3

- **OBSTACLES**
- **CRITICISM**

2) **DISCOURAGE YOU FROM THE INSIDE.**

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall." Nehemiah 4:10

DEFEATING DISCOURAGEMENT

After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." Nehemiah 4:14

1) **REMEMBER THE LORD.**

...Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome. Nehemiah 4:14

2) **FIGHT FOR YOUR CAUSE.**

...and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." Nehemiah 4:14

TALK IT OVER

- We don't face spiritual opposition because we're doing something wrong. We

face it because we're doing something right. Discuss a time you faced opposition for doing the right thing.

- Discuss how God is sustaining you and strengthening you to overcome current opposition.
- To encourage one another, talk about a time you remember God carrying and sustaining you through opposition and challenges. Pray for one another.

Find your next steps towards becoming a world-changer by using the resources available at <http://resources.lifechurch.tv> including a printable LifeGroup discussion guide for this message.

CHANGE YOUR WORLD IN 52 DAYS—4 FINISHING STRONG

When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it — though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates. Nehemiah 6:1

- **THE CLOSER YOU GET TO DOING WHAT GOD WANTS DONE, THE HARDER YOUR ENEMY WILL FIGHT TO STOP YOU.**

YOUR ENEMY'S STRATEGY

1) **YOUR ENEMY WILL TRY TO DISTRACT YOU.**

Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono..." Nehemiah 6:2

- **I'M NOT COMING DOWN.**

But they were scheming to harm me; 3 so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?"

Neh. 6:2-3

2) **YOUR ENEMY WILL TRY TO DISCREDIT YOU.**

- **BY SPREADING RUMORS.**

Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter 6 in which was written: "It is reported among the nations — and Geshem says it is true — that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt, and therefore you are building the wall. Moreover, according to these reports you are about to become their king... Now this report will get back to the king; so come, let us confer together." Nehemiah 6:5-6, 7b

- **BY TEMPTING YOU TO COMPROMISE.**

(Shemaiah) said, "Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you." ...12 I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. 13 He had been hired to intimidate me so that I would commit a sin by doing this, and then they would give me a bad name to discredit me. Nehemiah 6:10, 12-13

- **I'M NOT GIVING UP.**

But I said, "Should a man like me run away? Or should one like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!" Nehemiah 6:11

So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.
Nehemiah 6:15-16

TALK IT OVER

1. What could distract you from doing the most important thing God wants you to do?
2. How is the enemy trying to tempt you in order to discredit your integrity?
3. What have you learned the most from this series, and what are you going to do about it?

Find your next steps towards becoming a world-changer by using the resources available at <http://resources.lifechurch.tv> including a printable LifeGroup discussion guide for this message.



FINISHING STRONG - WEEK 4

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- What's one of your greatest accomplishments? How did you accomplish your goal and what did you learn from your experience?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Nehemiah 6:1-16.

In this passage, Nehemiah faces continued opposition as he nears completion in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, but refuses to give up.

- What could distract you from doing the most important thing God wants you to do?
- What steps can you take that will help prepare yourself to handle distractions when they come at you?
- Why are rumors such a dangerous tactic the enemy uses to discredit us?
- How is the enemy trying to tempt you in order to discredit your integrity?
- Describe a time when you gave into temptation and compromised your integrity. How did that experience impact you?
- Where in life do you feel like you want to give up right now? What steps can you take to ensure that you succeed?
- What have you learned most from this series that you can use to help you in changing your world? What are you going to do about it?

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you defeat opposition and finish strong.

Nehemiah became the perfect example of how an ordinary person changed his world when he rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem in just 52 days. During this series, read through the Book of Nehemiah and learn directly from God's Word how you can become a world-changer. This week read Nehemiah 11, 12, and 13 and allow God to speak to you as you read His Word.

In addition to Nehemiah, there are other great people in the Bible that finished strong. There are also several passages that discuss the importance of finishing strong. This week take time to read the following passages and allow God to speak to you and empower you with the desire and strength to finish strong in all you do for Him: 2 Timothy 4:1-22, Galatians 5:1-26, Proverbs 31:1-31, 1 Samuel 13:1-23, and Joshua 14:1-15.

5-Day Micro Devotional:

- Ask God to help you finish strong in everything you do.
- Ask God to remove all the distractions that could keep you from completing your task and distract you from Him.
- Tell God the ways the enemy is trying to discredit your integrity. Ask God to give you strength as you press forward.
- Ask God to help you keep a strong focus on everything you do for Him.
- Thank God for all the things you've learned during this series. Ask Him to guide your steps as you move forward in carrying out your task.