



September 20, 2020 Nehemiah

Goal... to help every one of you know God's BIG plan for your life right now

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Big Plans are different for everyone

Big Plans involve your heart

Big Plans involve seasons of intense prayer

Big Plans include a call to action

Big Plans are different for everyone

Nehemiah 1:1-2

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah.

Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, ²that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah.

Big Plans are different for everyone

Big Plans involve your heart

Nehemiah 1:2b-4

And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."

⁴As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

verse 3 ... disgrace

He doesn't know it yet ... but his broken heart is God's preparation for a new BIG plan

What breaks my heart?

Big plans are different for everyone

Big plans involve your heart

Big Plans involve seasons of intense prayer

Nehemiah 1:4

As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Intense prayer ...

- Multiple days
- Unusual amounts of time
- Fasting

God's BIG plan for you right now, might be a season of intense prayer

Big Plans include a call to action

Nehemiah 2:1-5

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ²And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. ³I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it."

God's BIG plan for you right now, might be a call to action

Share God's big plan for your life with our prayer team by texting 303-647-3233. It can be anonymous, or you can share your name. We want to encourage you and walk with you in this journey.

Growth Group Questions

FoothillsBibleChurch.org/growth-groups

Prepare

Read Ephesians 2:10 and Nehemiah

Pray for God to reveal His big plan for your life right now during this 5-week series and to use you to help your G2 discover what God has for them.

Connect

1. God's plan for Nehemiah was rebuilding a wall. What home or other projects are you, or should you be, working on?

Discuss

1. What stuck with you most from the sermon on Nehemiah?
2. How do your gifts, talents, personality, passions, and weaknesses reveal a masterpiece God can use?
3. What is firing you up these days? What is breaking your heart right now?
4. Brainstorm steps you can take toward action in God's plan for you right now.
5. How intently will you pursue discovering and engaging with God's plan for you? Is God calling you to intense prayer and fasting about discovering His plan?
6. Text 303-647-3233 with God's insight into His big plan for your life. You don't have to share your name, but we'd love to put your response with a name!

Dive Deeper (Optional questions to go a little further)

1. **Read Esther (Specifically 2:15-18, 3, 4:1-17, 5:1-8, 7:1-10)**
Because God's plans are different for everyone, compare and contrast God's big plan for Esther with Nehemiah. Consider their gifts, talents, personality, passions, and weaknesses as well as times of prayer and fasting and how they got to action.

Closing Prayer

1. Ask God to reveal His big plans for your life right now and for each person in your G2 and FBC.
2. Keep track of requests and celebrations from others in your G2 and pray for them.