

# Life Group Homework

For the week of January 28, 2018

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## MY STORY

Each week this section titled *My Story* will look back to last week's study and ask questions about what our takeaways were and how we are applying what we are learning. Since this is Week One, we will only have one question.

What are you hoping to see God do in your life through this study?

- 1) What are you hoping to see God do in your life through this study?

## QUICK REVIEW

This section is a review of Sunday's message.

- 2) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

## DIGGING DEEPER

Nehemiah 1:1-11

*In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa. <sup>2</sup> Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem.*

*<sup>3</sup> They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."*

*<sup>4</sup> When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup> Then I said,*

*"O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unending love with those who love him and obey his commands, <sup>6</sup> listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned! <sup>7</sup> We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.*

*<sup>8</sup> "Please remember what you told your servant Moses: 'If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. <sup>9</sup> But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored.'*

*<sup>10</sup> "The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants. <sup>11</sup> O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me."*

- 3) What did Nehemiah ask his visitors?
- 4) What effect did their reply have on Nehemiah?

- 5) What does that say about Nehemiah's heart for his people and his home?
- 6) Why does Nehemiah care about the walls being broke down?
- 7) What observations do you see in his prayer?
- 8) Why did Nehemiah confess, and what does that say about his heart?
- 9) In this passage, Nehemiah can be seen grieving, confessing sin, and then shifting to trusting God. In Verse 11, what does Nehemiah ask God to do for him? Why?

## TAKING IT HOME

Vision creates a hunger and desire for change.

- 10) Like Nehemiah, we are all put in places to be used by God, whether it is our job, family, church, friends, or neighborhood. God has a plan for us. What area in your life do you hear God wanting to give you fresh vision?

Colossians 3:1-3 says this:

*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.*

- 11) The verse says to "set your sights on"; what does that mean?
- 12) Why does God want that for you?
- 13) What are some practical ways we can set our sights on fresh vision for our lives?

## CHAIR TIME TOOL

This week re-read through Pastor's notes.

- 14) Pray and seek God's heart on what possibilities He has for you.

Read Colossians Chapter 3 and think about the following questions:

- 15) Is there anything from this chapter in my life that I need to confess?
- 16) What is it I need to set my heart on the most?
- 17) Is there anyone I can share these insights with this week?

## FAMILY RESOURCES

We are excited to offer family resources in our Life Group materials! These resources are designed to equip you as parents and caregivers to provide a loving, thriving and nurturing home in which your children can grow to become fully devoted followers of Christ.

The beginning of a new year is a wonderful time to seek God for a fresh vision for your family. Do you sense God tugging at your heart? Are you paying attention to His whispers? Tugs, whispers and even struggles are all ways that God may be calling you to a higher vision for your family. Are there any struggles that you are currently facing? Such as finances, loss, change or relationships? Are there any aspects of your parenting, such as discipline, organization, discipleship or connecting with your kids that you are not satisfied with? Your dissatisfaction may be an indication that God desires to give you a fresh vision for your family in those areas.

During your Chair Time this week, take some time and ask God to show you His heart for your family. What does it look like? What do your relationships with your children look like? Ask Him to show you His vision for you as a parent, leader, spouse (if you are married) and teacher. Then, write down everything that you hear and see in your journal.



TO THE POSSIBILITIES

JANUARY 28, 2018 | PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

**BIG Thought:** Vision creates hunger. Vision is God's heart for you!

**TWO impenetrable walls:**

1. Count me out!
2. I don't believe God will show up.

**Connecting the dots:**

**First dot** - Getting clear about the whisper of God.

**Second dot** - Sitting with the "IF" God possibilities.

**Third dot** - Acting on the "WHEN" God realities.

**Key Verse: Nehemiah 6:3**

*"I replied by sending this message to them: 'I am engaged in a great work, so I can't come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?'"*

**What we have to know:**

God is already at work doing the miraculous.

Nehemiah put in some serious Chair Time.

- Recognizing God's heart

Courage

- To confess
- To engage God's vision/heart for me.

**CHALLENGE:**

**Colossians 3:1-3**

1. When you "set your heart... mind" on God's heart FOR you...what do you see? What is God's grander vision for you? Describe what you see throughout this week as clearly as you can. Look for the details. What is being healed, let go of, picked up, forgiven, gotten over, given over, relinquished?
2. Why does God want THAT for you?