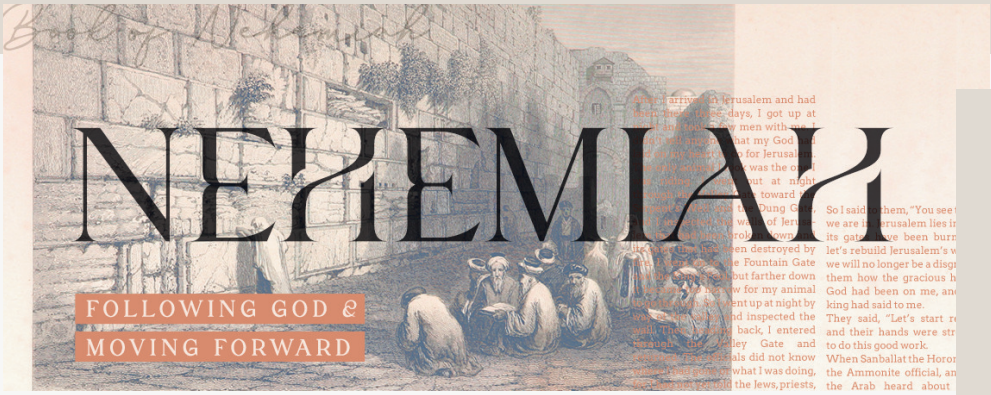


PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

Then Eliashib the high priest arose with his brothers the priests and built the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They consecrated the wall to the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel. 2 Next to him the men of Jericho built, and next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built. 3 Now the sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars. 4 Next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz made repairs. And next to him Meshullam the son of Berechiah the son of Meshezabel made repairs. And next to him Zadok the son of Baana also made repairs. 5 Moreover, next to him the Tekoites made repairs, but their nobles did not support the work of their masters. 6 Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars. 7 Next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, also made repairs for the official seat of the governor of the province beyond the River. 8 Next to him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah of the goldsmiths made repairs. And next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs, and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. 9 Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, the official of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs. 10 Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah made repairs. 11 Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahath-moab repaired another section and the Tower of Furnaces. 12 Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, the official of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs, he and his daughters. 13 Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They built it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars, and a thousand cubits of the wall to the Refuse Gate. 14 Malchijah the son of Rechab, the official of the district of Beth-haccherem repaired the Refuse Gate. He built it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars. 15 Shallum the son of Col-hozeh, the official of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate. He built it, covered it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars, and the wall of the Pool of Shelah at the king's garden as far as the steps that descend from the city of David. 16 After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, official of half the district of Beth-zur, made repairs as far as a point opposite the tombs of David, and as far as the artificial pool and the house of the mighty men. 17 After him the Levites carried out repairs under Rehum the son of Bani. Next to him Hashabiah, the official of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district. 18 After him their brothers carried out repairs under Bavvai the son of Henadad, official of the other half of the district of Keilah. 19 Next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, the official of Mizpah, repaired another section in front of the ascent of the armory at the Angle. 20 After him Baruch the son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the Angle to the doorway of the house of Eliashib the high priest. 21 After him Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz repaired another section, from the doorway of Eliashib's house even as far as the end of his house. 22 After him the priests, the men of the valley, carried out repairs. 23 After them Benjamin and Hasshub carried out repairs in front of their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah, carried out repairs beside his house. 24 After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah as far as the Angle and as far as the corner. 25 Palal the son of Uzai made repairs in front of the Angle and the tower projecting from the upper house of the king, which is by the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh made repairs. 26 The temple servants living in Ophel made repairs as far as the front of the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower. 27 After them the Tekoites repaired another section in front of the great projecting tower and as far as the wall of Ophel. 28 Above the Horse Gate the priests carried out repairs, each in front of his house. 29 After them Zadok the son of Immer carried out repairs in front of his house. And after him Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, carried out repairs. 30 After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah carried out repairs in front of his own quarters. 31 After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, carried out repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and of the merchants, in front of the Inspection Gate and as far as the upper room of the corner. 32 Between the upper room of the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants carried out repairs.

REFLECT/CONNECT

These questions provide for individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- What are you most thankful for so far in 2025?

- What's the biggest school or team project you've ever been part of? What was your role, and how did the group work together?

GROW IN THE WORD

These questions are designed to guide individual study and foster spiritual conversation in a group.

1. Nehemiah provided a detailed account of the rebuilding efforts, focusing on gates and major sections of the wall. The work started with the Sheep Gate, led by the priests, and continued through other key gates. A variety of leaders and workers contributed to different sections of the wall (v. 1-15).

- What keywords and themes do you see repeated in these verses?

- What stands out to you about the variety of people involved in rebuilding the gates and sections of the wall? Why is this significant?

- How does the willingness of diverse groups to work together reflect God's design for His people? See Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:11-16.

GROW IN THE WORD

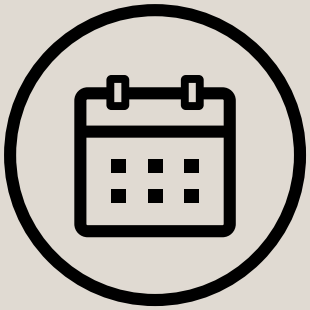
These questions are designed to guide individual study and foster spiritual conversation in a group.

2. Nehemiah continued to list the rebuilding efforts and detailed efforts from individual workers and their families. Workers are described as repairing specific sections of the city often near their own homes. Nehemiah ended his account by returning to the place it all started: the Sheep Gate (v. 16-32).

   - Why do you think Nehemiah started and ended with the Sheep Gate in his account?

   - How does working on sections near their homes (v. 28-30) reflect personal investment in the mission? How can this apply to the way you serve in your own communities?

   - In what ways can you cultivate unity and collaboration in your own church, family, or community?



Upcoming Events

TOWN HALL MEETING | FEBRUARY 16

In early January, our Elder Board interviewed Pastor Jason and followed that interview with a meeting where they unanimously recommended Jason Uptmore to be the next Lead Pastor. The final step in the calling of a Lead Pastor is for the members of the church to vote on the calling. The Wayside Constitution requires the vote to be held at a church Business Meeting where at least 25% of the members are present, and at least 75% of the members present must vote in favor of calling Jason. We will proceed to the business meeting in two steps: first, we will have this Town Hall, where the church will have the opportunity to ask Jason questions and hear from Jason on his calling. This meeting will be followed by a reception where you can meet with Jason and Rachel.