

WEEK 1 - GREATER VISION

BIG IDEA

Every great move of God begins with a burden from God.

KEY PASSAGES

Nehemiah 1:1-11; John 3:30

Have you ever wondered if God might be calling you towards greater things? Instead of living just an ordinary, everyday life, maybe He's inviting you to pursue a greater purpose than you can imagine. Over the next six weeks, we'll journey through the story of Nehemiah and discover what it means to build something lasting for God's glory through vision, faith, unity, and generosity. Together, we'll learn how to make Jesus greater in our lives, our city, and our region to help people find hope in Jesus, purpose for life, and a place to belong in the family of God.

Nehemiah's story begins not with blueprints, but with heartbreak. When he hears that the walls of Jerusalem are still in rubble after decades of disrepair, and that the people are living in disgrace, he is moved to tears and prayer. God stirs Nehemiah's heart and prompts him to act. Likewise, when we see the spiritual brokenness of our neighborhoods, school districts, and region, God stirs our hearts to act.

ICE BREAKERS

1. Describe a time in your life when someone asked you to step beyond your comfort zone. How did it go?
2. What is one way you hope to grow in your relationship with God through this Greater series?
3. Have you ever had to make a major decision without knowing all the variables? If so, what happened?

CONSIDER & DISCUSS

Read the Scriptures above aloud as a group. Spend time in discussion around the questions below.

1. Why do you think Nehemiah weeps over the state of Jerusalem? (v. 4)
2. Why do you think Nehemiah feels compelled to confess his own sin? (v. 6)
3. What stands out to you about Nehemiah's prayer?

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4. What do you learn from Nehemiah's prayer life? What elements in Nehemiah's prayer do you find useful as a model for your own prayer life? If so, what are they and how might you incorporate them?
5. List everything you observe from Nehemiah 1:5-10 about the character of God. How do these specific character qualities of God intersect with Nehemiah's needs.
6. In the light of God's promise (v. 8-9), how do you think God will respond to Nehemiah's prayer? What can that tell us about God's desires?
7. In what situations are you tempted to compromise God's Kingdom and priorities for comfort and security?
8. Are there burdens in your life that distract from being devoted to God's glory? What would it be to see each of these burdens as opportunities to make Jesus supreme?
9. In what circumstances do you most doubt God's goodness? How does God's faithfulness in Jesus change the way you see these circumstances?
10. How can God's faithfulness, even in the face of your unfaithfulness, move you to serve His purposes?
11. What would it look like for your life (job, family, house, recreation) to first consider God's greater plans for His church?
12. What are some God-given burdens that He has placed on your heart? How do these burdens intersect with the needs in your workplace, neighborhood, or city?

RESPOND

What is a tangible next step God might have for you? Share this step of faith with your group and write it in your GREATER Guidebook.

PRAY

As we enter this exciting new season of ministry at First Christian, spend some time praying together as a group. Ask God to do a greater work in you, so that He can do a greater work through you. You can pray in pairs, small groups, or have multiple people pray aloud.