



Rock Point Church

Bill Bush | 2.22.26

Big Idea: True grit begins with clarity of calling.

Nehemiah 1:1–11 (NLT)

¹ These are the memoirs of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa. ² 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.

³ 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."

⁴ When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ Then I said, "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands, ⁶ 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! ⁷ We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands,

decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.

⁸ “Please remember what you told your servant Moses: ‘If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. ⁹ 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.’

¹⁰ “The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants. ¹¹ 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.”

In those days I was the king’s cup-bearer.

- Define reality.
- Dream a preferred future.
 - If God had His way, what could this situation become?
- Develop the pathway.
 - “Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” - Arthur Ashe

GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you most in this week’s message, and why?

2. Pastor Bill said true grit begins with clarity of calling. Why do you think clarity matters before action?
3. Read Nehemiah 1:1–4. What do you notice about how Nehemiah responds when he hears the news about Jerusalem?
4. When you hear the phrase “define reality,” what does that look like in an everyday situation?
5. Read Nehemiah 1:5–7. What stands out to you about the way Nehemiah prays before he makes a move?
6. Pastor Bill talked about dreaming a preferred future. How do you discern the difference between personal ambition and a God-shaped vision?
7. Read Nehemiah 1:8–11. What do you learn about dependence on God before taking bold steps?
8. Pastor Bill encouraged asking, “If God had His way, what could this situation become?” How does that question shift your perspective on challenges you face?
9. After defining reality and dreaming a preferred future, Pastor Bill said we must develop the pathway. What keeps people from moving from vision to action?
10. As you consider the areas of responsibility in your life, where might God be inviting you to seek clarity of calling and take one faithful next step?