

## Nehemiah 2

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# The Courage to Build: Nehemiah



# Points in our Lesson Tonight

- Dreams
- Discouragement
- Determination
- Planning
- Presentation
- Problem-solving
- Praise
- 10 steps for encouraging groups







# Dreams

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- **Israel—70 years in exile**
- **Arrived home—faced reality**
- **Happiness tempered by responsibilities**
- **Price to pay for ideas**
- **Dreams have formative, developmental stages**
- **Foundation of temple laid, still unfinished restoration a decade later**

# Discouragement

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- **What the problem? What was the holdup?**
- **Walls first built—time of growth**
- **The vision, idealism and unity of Israel replaced with blindness, compromise, discord and discouragement**
- **Nehemiah saw the problem because he cared**
- **All encouragement begins with compassion**
- **Tenderheartedness is the womb of encouragement**







# Determination

- Public works project vs. Nehemiah's new beginning with unlimited potential
- Nehemiah 2:1-5
- Note "arrow prayer"
- Nehemiah's position was being risked for a dream
- Dreams are for the brave hearted
- Opportunity to serve is always a step up

# Planning

- Nehemiah 2:11-13
- “What my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem.”
- 3 days he collected information
- No perfect plan, but a viable one





# Presentation

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- **“Group encouragement requires a shared perception of a worthwhile and achievable goal.”**
- **Inspiration is derived from the ability to conceptualize practical and positive change.**
- **Nehemiah’s careful planning, straight talk and contagious enthusiasm won him the support he needed**
- **Zeal=Galatians 4:17-18; Romans 10:2**



# Problem-solving

- Criticism—Sanballat & Tobiah
- Hardship
- Discouragement—look beyond the rubble
- Distraction—Nehemiah 6:3
- Fear—“courageous leaders must act on their faith...they must stand on principle at all times, but especially during crisis.”







# Praise

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- **Capstone was set in place Neh. 7:1 ff**
- **Celebration and praise is vital when leaders encourage others!**
- **Praise given to God for completion**
- **Reflection upon this entire episode makes us aware that “encouraging leaders are the wind beneath the wings of shared dreams.”**

# 10 steps for encouraging groups

- Lean on God
- Identify needs
- Assess the situation
- Make a detailed plan
- Articulate a compelling vision





# 10 steps for encouraging groups

- Delegate and organize
- Expect Criticism
- Resist distraction
- Follow through
- Celebrate

