

## Reflection Questions

1. What need in the world moves you?
2. How is God calling you to help address that need?
3. What can you do today to start?
4. How can we (Emmaus Road) help?

### Prayer for Those Searching for Truth:

*Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.*

### Prayer of Belief:

*Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.*



**Development of a Calling**  
**Nehemiah 1:1-11**  
**October 11, 2015**

### The Development of a Calling

The first chapter of Nehemiah gives us the development of a calling.

Our “calling” points us to our purpose and what we are supposed to do. It connects us to something larger than ourselves.

A calling gets us moving, exhilarates us, and gives us purpose. Sometimes it is connected to your job, but not always.

Nehemiah’s calling to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem develops in three movements.

### 1. See A Need That Moves You

*The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.” -Nehemiah 1:3b (NIV)*

Your calling begins with the identification of a need. There are lots of needs in the world! Not all needs will move you the same way.

Your calling doesn’t have to meet a spiritual need. All things belong to God. All things can and should be done to the glory of God. Your calling is just about meeting a need that moves you.

Nehemiah’s calling was to build a wall. That isn’t “spiritual,” but it is beneficial!

## **2. Grieve The Reality Of the Need**

*When I heard these things, I sat down and wept.  
-Nehemiah 1:4a (NIV)*

Often our passion and calling is found in the very thing that grieves us. Our misery often leads us to our ministry.

Sometimes you go through a difficult thing, and you had a need that wasn't met or needed a resource that wasn't available.

The reality of that need grieves you, and can lead to a commitment to meeting that need or providing that resource for others who walk through the same difficulty.

NOTES:

## **3. Pray That The Need Is Met - Through You**

*"Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." -Nehemiah 1:11b (NIV)*

In vss. 5-11, Nehemiah prays a beautiful prayer that includes confession, a reminder to God about his covenant to Israel, and petition for him to find favor in the presence of King Artaxerxes.

He knows the king is going to have to play a role in rebuilding the walls. He knows he has an audience before the king as his cupbearer. With those two realities, he begins to take ownership of the need!

HOWEVER, Ezra 4:12 & 23 tell us that the rebuilding efforts had already started, but were ended with force by King Artaxerxes!

Sometimes, our calling seems impossible by human standards. It's a good thing God is in the business of doing the impossible!

NOTES:

### **Prayer**

*Jesus, Divine Caller of vocations,  
You invite some to chosen professions,  
Others to distinctive spiritual work!  
Your call may reflect one's ambitions,  
Or may be a command to a special calling.  
Inspire me to always know within my heart,  
What particular type of work is fitting  
To do Your will at that particular time.  
Your many callings vary immensely.  
They are all reflections of Your holiness.  
Help us to discover our unique calling and  
Respond in obedience to You.  
(Adapted from [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org), A Prayer for One's Calling)*