

## Reflection Questions

1. Reflect on this truth: God's work in the world is connected to (or begins with) you. Does this motivate you? Discourage you? Confuse you?
2. What gift, hobby, interest, or skill do you have that could be given over to God? How could that be utilized the Church?
3. Pray that God would work through Emmaus as we work together toward the mission he has given us to present Christ as Savior, pursue Christ as King, and partner with Christ in service.

### **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.*



**Nehemiah 3**  
**October 25, 2015**

### **Recap**

Chapter 1 shows us the development of Nehemiah's calling to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem.

Chapter 2 tells the story of Nehemiah's encounter with King Artaxerxes. This story is the answer to Nehemiah's prayer in 1:11 ("Grant me favor in the presence of that man.")

### **Getting to Chapter Three**

After his favorable encounter with the king, Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem and assesses the damage to the wall.

After a full assessment, he announces in 2:17-18, "*Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.' 18 I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, 'Let us start rebuilding.' So they began this good work.*"

Chapter three is a beautiful story of what can be accomplished by a group of people moving together toward a God-inspired goal.

## **The Need for Help**

Let's journey with Nehemiah around the wall:

- 2.5 miles around
- 40 sections
- 10 gates
- 39' high & 8' thick

Some sections needed repair, others rebuilt, one section relocated.

The magnitude of the vision and calling God had given Nehemiah was huge!

He could not do it alone!

Nehemiah realized he was not alone. Look at 2:17 again, "Look at the trouble we are in..."

Nehemiah identified with a people. He was part of a whole.

## **Working Beside Each Other**

As you read through chapter 3 the phrase, "next to him" or "next to them" keeps popping up.

This is a beautiful analogy for the Church!

God has work that he wants to do in the world.  
He has chosen to do that work through the Church.  
The Church is made up of churches.  
Churches are made up of people like you and me.

God's work in the world, in a very real sense, begins with you and me.

God works through us as we work together.

The best way to get involved is to give your skills, passions, interests, hobbies, etc. to God so they can be used for his glory.

## **NOTES:**

### **Prayer**

*O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*(Source: For the Unity of the Church, Book of Common Prayer p. 818)*