

**September 16 | Sunday**  
United in Common Cause  
Read [Nehemiah 8:1-2, 9-12](#)



**17 | Mon – It starts with the wake-up call** | Read [Nehemiah 1:1-4](#)

The trouble we get into is often of our own doing. When trouble comes, it could be a strong message that something needs to change. That is what happened to people of Judah after they repeatedly ignored the warnings from God. As a result of their disobedience, their country was conquered, captives taken, and Jerusalem burned. It is enough to break the spirit of a nation. Have you ever or are you now facing some kind of ‘disaster’?

**18 | Tue – Is it an excuse?** | Read [Nehemiah 1:5-11](#)

When Nehemiah heard the latest news from Judah, it was so heartbreaking he went into deep mourning. But what could *he* do? He was far from home, a servant in a foreign country and subject to a powerful king. Nehemiah’s first response was to go to God and confess - we have brought this upon ourselves! Repentance puts you in the perfect place to find help. Why is it sometimes easier for you to make excuses than to admit your need?

**19 | Wed – Be willing** | Read [Nehemiah 2:1-10](#)

No matter how unconcerned, hard-hearted or dismissive a powerful leader may be, God has ways of changing the heart. It might be tempting to depend on your great persuasive skills when trying to convince others a project needs to be done but it was Nehemiah’s humility and dependence on God that opened the doors of opportunity. Is there something important in your life you care a great deal about but are trying to do in your own strength?

**20 | Thu – Together is better** | Read [Nehemiah 2:11-18](#)

Nehemiah was passionate about the need, took stock of the realities, began to communicate possibilities in terms others could understand, and the result? The vision caught fire. You might be a Nehemiah but you cannot accomplish by yourself what God wants done. Whether it is for a mission God has put on your heart or for a desperate personal situation, who are the people in your life that could be a part of the team which will make the difference?

**21 | Fri – Naysayers** | Read [Nehemiah 4:1-23](#)

There will always be those who want you to fail. Read what Nehemiah and his team did when they were threatened: they stuck together, reminding themselves *why* they were doing what they were doing (verse 14). If one thing did not work, they found another way. They did *not* give up because their mission was too important. And they had each other’s back...literally. How are you handling the adversities that threaten to derail your mission?

**22 | Sat – Something far deeper happens** | Read [Nehemiah 6:15-16](#) and [8:5-12](#)

Initially this story is about a building project to restore protection for the people of Jerusalem. But as a result of that physical accomplishment, barriers between the people and their God began to crumble. Seeing this task completed in the impossibly short time of 52 days, because of God’s help, opened people’s hearts to His goodness and desire to have them back in right relationship with Him. A spiritual reform began that far outweighed the benefits of the original project. Has God got something bigger going on than you can see right now?