

BUILD UP TO REACH OUT

Our Blueprint – Nehemiah 1-2

A God Who Gathers

"I will gather them from [the furthest horizon] and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name."

Nehemiah 1:9

"Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.' 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."

Nehemiah 2:17-18

A God Who Builds

1. Building up to reach out relies on faithful _____.
2. Building up to reach out demands a clear _____.
3. Building up to reach out depends on diligent _____.

When we're **built up** in God's grace we can **reach out** with his gospel.

OLD TESTAMENT



CREATION PATRIARCH EXODUS CONQUEST JUDGES KINGDOM

Assyria Conquers Israel
722 B.C.
Babylon Conquers Judah
587 B.C.
1st & 2nd Returns, Temple
538-458 B.C.
Nehemiah Rebuilds Wall
445 B.C.



EXILE RETURN SILENCE

NEW TESTAMENT



GOSPELS CHURCH MISSIONS FUTURE

Build Up to Reach Out: Our Blueprint

Questions based on sermon on April 14, 2024

Getting to Know Me

1. According to a recent Harris Poll, only one-third of Americans surveyed said they were happy. Share three things that make you happy.
2. Where have you seen God at work in the past week?

Digging Deeper

3. Look back at the notes from Sunday's sermon and the timeline for how Nehemiah fits into God's redemptive story. What questions came up for you as you were introduced to Nehemiah? What new insight or information did you glean?
4. Read Nehemiah 1:3-4. What spurred Nehemiah's grief? Why did he feel sorrow and how did he respond to the sorrow he felt?
5. How does Nehemiah 1:8-9 help us understand why God's people were exiled and how Nehemiah knew God wanted to bring them home? What is revealed here about God's heart?
6. What stands out to you as you read Nehemiah's prayer (1:5-11)? What do you learn about Nehemiah? About God? About prayer?
7. Read Nehemiah 2:1-5. As cupbearer to the king, what did Nehemiah risk as he stepped out in faith? We're told that he was fearful, but what kind of faith do you see in him here?

Making it Personal

8. Of the three points Phil shared, which most challenged with you?
 - Building up to reach out relies on faithful prayer.
 - Building up to reach out demands a clear vision.
 - Building up to reach out depends on diligent preparation.
9. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and Hebrews 10:24-25. As we begin a new Growth Group season, how can we "**build each other up**" and "*spur one another on to love and good works*"?
10. Read Matthew 23:37-38. What is Jesus' heart for His people? What is our role as church body to gather his children? How can we, how should we **reach out**?

Building Up to Reach Out

11. Phil said the *Build Up to Reach Out* campaign is not ultimately about finances for facilities, but about our spiritual formation. In what ways do you think God forms our hearts as we engage in his work through prayer, serving and giving?
12. What excites you about RMCC's vision to *Build Up to Reach Out*?
13. What questions do you have about the *Build Up to Reach Out* initiative? (*For more information, see the FAQ's in the folder or attend one of the Q & A's scheduled for April 14 and 16.*)

Prayer

God, help us to see our neighbors as you see them. Give us faith to reach out and wisdom to see how our hearts need to be rebuilt in your image. Give us grace and mercy to be willing to do the good works you call us to do and give us courage and faith to join you in your work. Build us up in your grace so that we can better reach out with your gospel, Lord. Amen.

We exist to glorify God by guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

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