



VIDEO DISCUSSION | WEEK 1

Sermon: January 11, 2026

BUILDING THE KINGDOM: SEEING WHAT GOD SEES (NEHEMIAH 2:11-20)

God is glorified in the unified effort of believers advancing His Kingdom

HOOK

MAIN POINT: *God is glorified in the unified effort of believers advancing His Kingdom*

In the decades prior to World War II, the average construction time for an aircraft carrier in the United States was 4.5 years, with some taking as long as 7 years to complete. The launching of new ships was infrequent. From 1941-1945, the United States constructed 155 carriers, with construction times as short as 3 months and never exceeding 30 months (largest carriers earlier in the war effort). Production increased rapidly in frequency and time. This was true of a lot of wartime necessities as the nation unified behind the war effort. Men went to war, women went to work, and families sacrificed daily luxuries. The war machine became very efficient very quickly, and the construction of carriers is just one example of this.

The Church is God's plan for proclaiming to the world redemption through Christ, a far greater purpose than any war or movement in history. As believers we have a responsibility to be unified under this redemptive purpose to effectively advance the Kingdom. We need to see what God sees, aligning our desires with His. Gaining ground for his Kingdom begins with fully embracing his mission and purpose for the world.

- Q: How have you seen believers unify to accomplish a greater purpose?

BOOK

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Begin the video now, pause when prompted, then walk through the discussion points below

Talking Point 1: Kingdom work requires submission to the mission of God.

Scripture: Nehemiah 1:1-3; 2:1-8

The book of Nehemiah begins in 445 B.C. Nehemiah was the cupbearer to Artaxerxes, King of Persia (465-424 B.C.), four and a half centuries before the birth of Christ and over a century

Here are a couple phrases that will be helpful to understand for the group discussion:

- Kingdom work: Efforts that expand the reach of the Gospel and advance the eternity impacting ministries of God's earthly institution, the Gospel-believing Church.
- Mission of God: To make Himself known to people of all tribes, tongues, and nations—specifically through the redemptive work of Christ, that he might reconcile us to Himself.

With those definitions in mind, here are a few interpretative questions for the first talking point:

- Q: Was Nehemiah's work still "Kingdom work" even though it was centuries before the incarnation of Jesus and the establishment of the Church? How so?
- Q: How did Nehemiah align himself with the vision and mission of God? What obstacles might have prevented him from doing so?

Resume the video

Talking Point 2: Kingdom work is sacrificial.

Scripture: Nehemiah 2:9-18

Sacrifice pays off. Just in the days of Nehemiah, Jerusalem became filled with worship and a deep desire to live according to the Law of Moses. Nehemiah led this religious revival among the Jews. But God saw far beyond the finite vision of Nehemiah. Rebuilding the city had a generational impact and ultimately prepared the way for the Messiah centuries later, who in that very city, would make the ultimate sacrifice.

- Q: What similarities exist between the work to construct the wall in Nehemiah and the work of the Church, Christ's bride, today?
- Q: What other Biblical figures had to make significant sacrifices for the glory of God and his Kingdom?

Resume the Video

Talking Point 3: Kingdom work is counter-cultural

Scripture: Nehemiah 2:19-20

- Q: What does it mean to live counter-culturally?
- Q: Amid questions about the viability of his project, Nehemiah said “The God of heaven will make us prosper” (Neh. 2:20). Does this mean that Nehemiah could have got away with slacking or giving in to the surrounding culture?
 - What’s the balance between our responsibility and the reality that God will always ensure his plans come to fruition?

The call for sacrificial and counter-cultural living is well articulated by Paul in Romans 12:1-2: *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

- Q: What does it mean in Romans 12:1-2 for us to be a “living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God”?
- Q: What does it mean to “be conformed to this world”?



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Spend a few minutes discussing the practical applications of today’s passage:

- Q: What does it look like, practically, for you to align yourself with the mission of God?
- Q: What does sacrificial living look like? What sacrifices are most difficult to make?
- Q: In our current cultural context, what are some specific examples of how Kingdom work is counter-cultural?
- Q: Our main takeaway today is “God is glorified in the unified effort of believers advancing His Kingdom.” What is the connection between this truth and our Gaining Ground effort as a church?