

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: A Heart Broken for What Breaks God's Heart

Devotional

Nehemiah was not a prophet or a priest. He was a cupbearer, an exile living far from home. Yet when he heard that the walls of Jerusalem lay in ruins, he wept. He fasted. He prayed. And then he acted.

That kind of response does not come from obligation. It comes from a heart that has been shaped by God's own concerns. Nehemiah's grief was not self-pity. It was a holy burden, the kind that moves a person from mourning to mission.

This is where so much of the Christian life begins, not with a grand strategy or a perfect plan, but with a moment of honest reckoning before God. Nehemiah did not know how the wall would be rebuilt. He simply knew that something had to be done, and that God had placed Him close enough to care.

You may be carrying a burden right now for your city, your church, or your community. That burden is not an accident. Reformed theology has always affirmed that God is sovereign over the details of our lives, including the things that break our hearts. He does not give us those burdens to crush us. He gives them to call us.

The question is not whether God is at work. He always is. The question is whether we are paying attention.

Bible Verse

"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven." - Nehemiah 1:4 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

What burden has God placed on your heart that you may have been dismissing as too small or too overwhelming to act on?

Quote

"God has called us to his kingdom, His purposes. He says, what are you going to do about it? What are you going to do about it? I've called you here. I placed you here in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I placed you here for a reason. What are you going to do with that?"

Prayer

Lord, give us eyes to see what breaks Your heart and the courage to let it break ours. Stir in us a holy burden that leads not to despair, but to faithful action in Your name.

Day 2: God Provides Before You Even Ask

Devotional

When Nehemiah finally brought his burden before King Artaxerxes, something remarkable happened. He did not just receive permission to go. He received letters of authorization, access to royal timber, and a military escort. God had already gone ahead of Him.

This is one of the most encouraging patterns in all of Scripture. God does not call His people to a mission and then leave them to figure it out alone. He prepares the way. He opens doors. He provides resources that no human strategy could have arranged.

Reformed theology grounds this in the doctrine of providence. God is not a distant observer waiting to see how things unfold. He is actively governing every detail of history, including the details of your life, for His glory and the good of His people.

Nehemiah's faith was not naive optimism. It was confidence rooted in the character of God. He prayed, he prepared, and then he stepped forward, trusting that the God who had stirred his heart would also clear His path.

You may be standing at the edge of something God is calling you into, unsure if the resources or the open doors will come. Take courage. The God who calls is the God who provides. He has never sent His people into battle empty-handed.

Bible Verse

"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 2:18 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

Where in your life have you been waiting for certainty before stepping forward, and what would it look like to trust God's provision in that area today?

Quote

"God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, more than all we could ask or imagine. I sometimes wonder, do we dream and do we think big enough as churches in this city as to what God can do?"

Prayer

Father, remind us that You go before us in every step of obedience. Give us the faith to move forward, trusting that Your hand is already at work in what You have called us to do.

Day 3: Your Part Is Not Optional

Devotional

Nehemiah 3 reads like a list of names and assignments. It can feel easy to skim past. But do not miss what is happening in that chapter. Every clan, every family, every individual was given a specific section of the wall to rebuild. No one was a spectator.

This was not just good project management. It was a theological statement. God had ordained that each person had a part, and the wall's completion depended on every part being filled.

The same is true for the body of Christ today. God has not placed you in your church, your city, or your community by accident. He has placed you there with intention, with gifts, and with a role that no one else can fill in quite the same way.

When any section of the wall was left unfinished, it became a gap, an entry point for the enemy. The same principle holds in the church. When believers disengage from their calling, the body is weakened and made vulnerable. Passivity is never neutral in the kingdom of God.

This is not a call to guilt. It is a call to confidence. You have been placed exactly where you are for a reason. Your contribution matters more than you may realize. Step into it with faith.

Bible Verse

"From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah." - Nehemiah 4:13 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

What specific role or responsibility in your church or community have you been hesitant to fully embrace, and what might be holding you back?

Quote

"If one clan refused to do their part, that was going to be the entry point for the enemy to come in and still destroy. Everybody had to do their part."

Prayer

Lord, show us the part You have called us to play in Your kingdom work. Give us the courage to step into it fully, trusting that You have equipped us for exactly this moment.

Day 4: There Is Strength When We Stand Together

Devotional

Nehemiah's workers did not rebuild the wall in isolation. They worked side by side, clan by clan, shoulder to shoulder. And when the threat of attack came, they did not scatter. They rallied together, weapons in hand, trusting that God would fight for them.

This is a picture of the church at its best. Not a collection of individuals pursuing private faith, but a community of people united around a shared mission, willing to stand together when things get hard.

Psalm 133 celebrates the blessing that flows when brothers and sisters dwell in unity. John 17 records Jesus praying that His people would be one, just as He and the Father are one. This unity is not merely a nice idea. It is a witness to the world and a source of genuine spiritual power.

The wall in Jerusalem was rebuilt in 52 days. That is a staggering achievement. But it did not happen because the workers were extraordinary. It happened because they were unified, obedient, and trusting in a God who fights for His people.

The same God is at work today. When His people come together in faith and obedience, He shows up in ways that exceed anything we could accomplish on our own. Do not underestimate what God can do through a unified body of believers.

Bible Verse

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" - Psalm 133:1 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

In what ways might individualism or self-sufficiency be limiting your experience of what God wants to do through your community of faith?

Quote

"The word of God reminds us again and again when God's people come together. Psalm 133, there's blessing. John 17. Jesus prayed, I pray that they are one, just as we are one. There's strength and power."

Prayer

Father, knit our hearts together in genuine unity for the sake of Your kingdom. May our life together be a testimony to a watching world that You are real and that You are worth following.

Day 5: All In, For Such a Time as This

Devotional

The wall was finished. The exiles had come home. A generation had passed in exile, and yet God brought His people back together and accomplished something that seemed statistically impossible. Fifty-two days. A city restored. A people renewed.

This is what happens when the people of God stop sitting on their hands and step into what He has called them to do. It is not about talent or resources or perfect timing. It is about obedience, faith, and the willingness to show up.

You are not here by accident. God has placed you in your city, your church, and your relationships with intention and purpose. The kingdom of God is not advanced by passive observers. It is built by ordinary people who take their calling seriously and trust that God will do what only He can do.

The invitation today is simple but weighty. Pick up your tools. Put on your armor. Stand with your brothers and sisters. The work is real, the stakes are high, and the God who rebuilt Jerusalem's walls in 52 days is the same God who is at work in your city right now.

He is not looking for the exceptional. He is looking for the available. Be all in.

Bible Verse

"my prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." - John 17:20-21 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

If you truly believed that God had placed you in your city and your church for a specific purpose, what would you do differently starting this week?

Quote

"There's not a passive, kind of optional, you know, if we feel like it, role in the kingdom of God. If you're a follower of Jesus Christ, we must step to the plate. God has ordained for us to step to the plate."

Prayer

Lord, we surrender our passivity and our excuses. Use us, together, for Your glory in this city. May our unity and our obedience point others to You.