

# Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

## Return from Exil - Part 6

Sam Taylor

### Introduction

In the Old Testament, we read that Nehemiah found favour with King Artaxerxes and gained approval to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple gates and city walls, together with the Israelites. Some criticised Nehemiah's leadership, but he was confident that God would give them success. In this season, God is calling us to rebuild our lives and trust that He will enable us to overcome the distractions and discouragement that we face.

### Read

Nehemiah 1:1-4, Nehemiah 2:1-5

### Discuss

1. As we have undergone lockdowns in recent times, what are some "exile" experiences you are facing? Share with the group some challenges you are going through.
2. Read Nehemiah 2:4. Nehemiah understands that he needs God's help to rebuild something as significant as the wall of Jerusalem -- to the extent that he prayed to God even in the middle of a conversation with the king. How can we move towards having this kind of faith? What might hinder you from doing so?
3. Pastor Sam reminded us, "You can't rebuild anything of significance without God's help." Is there any specific area in your life where you long for God's help in order to make significant change?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. God has promised that His grace is sufficient for us, and His power is made perfect in our weakness. Share with the group some uplifting times where you have experienced God's grace and power.

*(continued on next page)*

5. Pastor Sam mentioned that we can focus on rebuilding our lives by making specific plans, remaining resilient when faced with discouragement, and celebrating success in small wins. What does it look like for you to apply this to your current reality? Share with the group some of the successes you have experienced.
6. We can't rebuild everything immediately and we can't do nothing, but we can start rebuilding something today. Is there someone you can reach out to in your community, Life Group or workplace who may need your help in beginning the rebuilding process? What are some ways you could reach out to them?

### **Respond**

This week, pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal to you one area that you can start rebuilding and trust that He will give you success. Ask God to help you reach out to someone you can journey with through this rebuilding process.