

TALK IT OVER

REBUILDERS SERIES | PART 3

5 JULY 2026

SCRIPTURES

NEHEMIAH 3:1-10

Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel.

²*The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zakkur son of Imri built next to them.*

³*The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place.*

⁴*Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs. ⁵The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.*

⁶*The Jeshanah Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place. ⁷Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah—Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of Meronoth—places under the authority of the governor of Trans-Euphrates.*

⁸*Uzziell son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section; and Hananiah, one of the perfume-makers, made repairs next to that. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. ⁹Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section. ¹⁰Adjoining this, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs next to him."*

START TALKING

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
2. What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

START THINKING

1. Read Nehemiah 3:1-10. Although it may seem like a list of names, notice how many different people were involved and how often the phrase "next to them" appears. Nehemiah 3 reminds us that rebuilding God's Kingdom isn't the responsibility of a few gifted people—it is the calling of every believer. God uses ordinary people, working together, to bring restoration to lives, families and communities. Where is He calling you to rebuild?
2. Passion and faithfulness matter to God. What are you passionate about?
3. We are stronger when we build together than when we try to build alone. Are there people around you who you could partner with?
4. What opportunities do you have to reflect Jesus in your workplace, neighbourhood, school or family?

START SHARING

Nehemiah 3 includes priests, merchants, goldsmiths, rulers and families—all serving together.

1. What encourages you most about the fact that God used ordinary people?
2. Have you ever felt unqualified or inadequate for something God was asking you to do?
3. What fears sometimes stop us from saying "yes" to God?
4. Can you share a time when stepping out in faith helped you discover a gift or calling you didn't know you had?

START PRAYING

1. Thank God that Jesus is our ultimate Restorer. Thank Him for inviting ordinary people into His Kingdom work, the gift of community and the Holy Spirit who empowers us to serve.
2. Ask God for courage to say "yes" to His calling, for open eyes to recognise opportunities where He has placed us and for wisdom to know what "our section of the wall" is.

START DOING

Look for opportunities to encourage, pray for, serve or simply listen to someone during the week. Choose one intentional act of kindness, generosity or encouragement toward someone you regularly encounter.

TALK IT OVER

SUMMARY OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

At first glance, Nehemiah 3 can seem like a chapter that is easy to skip. It is filled with long lists of names, families, gates and sections of wall. Yet every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, correcting and equipping His people (2 Timothy 3:16). Hidden within what appears to be a simple historical record is a beautiful picture of how God accomplishes His work through ordinary people.

Nehemiah 3 reminds us that rebuilding God's Kingdom has never been the responsibility of a select few. God delights in bringing together people with different gifts, backgrounds, personalities and abilities to accomplish His purposes. Every person has a place. Every contribution matters. Every willing heart can be used by God.

The central message of the chapter is simple yet profound: **Rebuilding is for all of us.**

The rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls demonstrates that God's work flourishes when His people work together in unity. No individual rebuilt the entire wall alone. Instead, each person faithfully completed the section entrusted to them.

Likewise today, God is rebuilding lives, families, churches and communities through His people. He calls every believer to participate in His mission of restoration.

One of the most striking features of Nehemiah 3 is the diversity of those involved. The chapter includes priests, rulers, merchants, goldsmiths, perfume makers, families and people from neighbouring towns. None of these professions naturally equipped them to build defensive walls, yet God used them all.

This reflects an important biblical truth: God is less concerned with our qualifications than with our willingness. Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly chooses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary purposes. He delights in displaying His strength through willing hearts.

The rebuilding of Jerusalem becomes a picture of the Church today—a diverse body with different gifts working together under one Lord for one purpose.

An important detail in Nehemiah 3 is that the rebuilding both starts and finishes at the Sheep Gate. Historically, this gate was where sacrificial animals entered the city before being offered in the temple. It reminds us that God's presence dwelt among His people through the sacrificial system.

Viewed through the lens of the New Testament, the Sheep Gate points directly to Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

Whether we are rebuilding our own lives, restoring broken relationships, strengthening families, or serving our communities, everything must begin and end with Jesus. He is not merely part of the rebuilding process, He is the Foundation, the Builder and the goal. Only Jesus can forgive sin, heal brokenness, restore hope and reconcile people to the Father.

Our mission is therefore not simply to improve people's circumstances but to lead them into a life-giving relationship with Christ, where true restoration begins. The chapter repeatedly uses the phrase "next to them." This simple expression paints a beautiful picture of God's people working shoulder to shoulder. No one worked in isolation; each person's faithfulness strengthened the next person's work.

The Church is designed to function in exactly the same way. Every believer contributes something valuable. As each person fulfils their God-given role, the whole body becomes stronger. God's Kingdom grows through partnership rather than individual achievement.

There are three lessons that we can learn from Nehemiah 3:

1. God Wants to Use You

Perhaps one of the greatest encouragements from Nehemiah 3 is that everyone had a place. The work was not reserved for priests alone. God used ordinary people who simply made themselves available.

Sometimes we disqualify ourselves because we believe someone else is more gifted, more experienced or more spiritual. Nehemiah 3 challenges that thinking.

Mpho shared how saying "yes" to his first opportunity to preach felt intimidating. He was nervous, spoke for only three minutes, and felt inadequate. Yet that simple act of obedience became the beginning of discovering God's grace and calling on his life.

Many times, God's purposes unfold one small "yes" at a time. We often discover our gifting after we step out in faith rather than before.

2. God Wants to Use You Where You Are

Another repeated pattern in Nehemiah 3 is that many people repaired the section of wall directly in front of their own homes.

Rather than seeking more visible or prestigious assignments, they faithfully rebuilt what was nearest to them.

This teaches an important Kingdom principle: our mission begins where God has already placed us. God intentionally positions His people in specific places so His love can reach those around them.

Mpho shared simple but powerful examples of noticing opportunities that others may have overlooked—a grieving cashier needing prayer, or his grandparents faithfully planting a church in their own community. These moments remind us that ministry often happens through ordinary encounters rather than extraordinary events.

Faithfulness where we are today often prepares us for what God has tomorrow. Kingdom impact usually begins with simple acts of obedience in ordinary places.

3. God Honours Passion and Zeal

Only one builder receives a special description in Nehemiah 3. Nehemiah 3:20 says, *“Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest.”* Scripture does not explain exactly what made him different. Perhaps he worked with exceptional diligence. Perhaps his enthusiasm encouraged others. Perhaps his wholehearted devotion simply stood out. Whatever the reason, God noticed.

God values hearts that serve Him with joy, passion and wholehearted commitment. Zeal is not about personality, it is about devotion.

The Holy Spirit produces a growing desire within believers to serve Christ wholeheartedly. Whatever our role may be, God calls us to serve with excellence and enthusiasm because we are ultimately serving Him.

As Mpho reflected on his time at Bible school, he realised that even something as ordinary as gardening became an act of worship when done wholeheartedly for the Lord. No task is insignificant when it is done for God's glory.

Nehemiah 3 is far more than a historical record of names and building projects. It reveals God's heart for His people and His Kingdom. He invites ordinary men and women to participate in His extraordinary work of restoration.

Every believer has a section of the wall to rebuild. Whether in our homes, workplaces, schools, churches or communities, God has intentionally placed us where we are so that His love can be made known through us. As we say "yes" to His calling, begin and end with Jesus, and rely on the empowering work of the Holy Spirit, God uses our ordinary obedience to accomplish His extraordinary purposes.

The invitation remains the same today as it was in Nehemiah's time: **Rebuilding is for all of us.**