

# Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

**Series** - When God Calls (Nehemiah 1:1-11)  
**Topic** - Building the Future

**Date** - 19-Apr-2020  
**Speaker** - SP Ben KC Lee

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## WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

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## WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Make A Difference
2. Saviour King

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## BIBLE READING PLAN [10 min]

**NEW**

Take some time to talk about the Bible Reading Plan. The time of sharing can include the following:

- a) How's everyone's progress so far?
- b) What are some things that God has spoken to you through the various readings?

### Wrap Up Sharing

In this season of PAUSE, we want to mature in the knowledge of God. To mature in our relationship with God would mean knowing Him and His ways better. To know Him better is to know His Word better. Therefore, let's get deeper in the Word during this PAUSE season and let us emerge from this season deeper and stronger in His Word.

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## WORD [45 min]

### **Spiritual Objectives**

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. learn to pray like Nehemiah: praise God's character, confess sins and seek forgiveness, and finally, claim upon the promises of God.
2. commit to get involved in the causes that God has burdened us with.

### **Sermon Summary**

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. Our Father calls you and I to call the people to Him.

2. The state of God's people (cell group, household, church) is our problem – we need to care and do something about it.

### **Sermon Recap (Full Summary)**

Nehemiah is a tremendous example of how people of faith respond to God's call and mission. What does it mean to rebuild the walls of our own lives and the lives of others? Rebuilding our walls is the re-establishing of the spiritual strength in our lives. Rebuilding the walls of others is to find His Kingdom purposes and catch our burden of seeing them fulfilled.

#### **1. God calls us (vs. 1-4a)**

When God wants to accomplish a work, He puts His people at the right place at the right time. God also works in our hearts, just as He did in Nehemiah. Does the suffering of others burden us? We need to be concerned about the issues around us, even if they bring obligations, because God has called us. Nehemiah had a burden for God's people and it broke his heart. Our Father calls you and I to call others to Him. SP Ben shared his burden for RiverLife Church – to make disciples to fulfil the Great Commission and to restore the relationship between God and His people (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

#### **2. Call out to God (vs. 4b-11)**

Nehemiah called out to God. His first act was to pause and go to God. He spent four months fasting and calling out to God to change his heart. Nehemiah's prayer began with praise and adoration of God's character. The second part of his prayer is confession of sins (his own and his people) and seeking forgiveness from God. The third part of his prayer is an expression of confidence in God's promises (vs. 8-11). He claimed God's promises and His faithfulness to His people. Then he asked God for favour to fulfil his calling.

#### **3. Commitment to get involved (vs. 11b)**

Nehemiah knew that he had to get involved. As he prayed, his burden became greater, and his heart changed. He recognised that he had a personal responsibility and made himself available. Prayer is not for getting our will done in heaven, but getting God's will done on earth. For that He needs people to be available for His purposes. Nehemiah laid down self-interest for God's purpose. He sacrificed the comfort and luxury of the palace for the hardship and dangers of the ruined city.

### **Conclusion**

God is looking for people like Nehemiah who cared enough to ask for the facts, to pray for God's help, and then volunteer to get the job done. Martin Luther said to pray as if everything depends on God, and work as if everything depends on us. Nehemiah was a man of burden, a man of prayer, and a man of action. The state of God's people (cell group, household, church) is our problem – we need to care and do something about it. Are you available to receive a burden, to give yourself to prayer, and to commit our life to others? May God help us to have such a heart. It is time to get our priorities in line with God's Kingdom. But some of us need personal rebuilding. Our defences are broken because we have allowed sins and habits to control our life. Before we ask God to rebuild around us, we must first be concerned about the brokenness in ourselves. Do you cry over the neglect in your own life?

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## **Discussion Questions**

- 1. Think back to a time when you have been very passionate about a cause or a project. Share the sacrifices you made and the effort you put into the cause or project. (Recap)**  
[10 min]

### **Leader's Notes:**

*Get members to recall a time when they were passionate about something, that they made sacrifices for it and put in a lot of effort. It could be for work, a personal project (e.g., to lose weight, or pick up a hobby), a cause for the community, for the family, or for friends. It does not need to be church-related. This is just an exercise to get them to remember how they felt, why they willingly committed, what sacrifices they had made, and why they had such a personal responsibility towards that cause or project. Whether they had achieved what they had wanted is not the point, the idea is to provoke a remembrance of how committed they could be.*

### **Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)**

Now that we have discovered that we can be very passionate and zealous, let us apply that to God's purposes for us.

- 2. Examine the state of your own spiritual walls – personal, household and cell. Share with each other the walls that need rebuilding in your life. (Relate, Reflect)** [15 min]

### **Leader's Notes:**

*Some of us need personal rebuilding. The defences may be broken because we have allowed sins, ungodly habits and worldly mindsets to influence our lives. Before we ask God to rebuild those around us, we must first be concerned about the brokenness within us. It hinders our relationship with God and prevents us from living the life that God has meant for us to live.*

*Follow the example of Nehemiah by calling out to God. Pray together as a cell on rebuilding these broken walls within. Seek forgiveness for losing sight of what is important and pray for God to fix the brokenness inside. Get members to commit to rebuilding these walls and get one another to be accountability partners.*

### **Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)**

After we have addressed the brokenness inside of us, we can then look at rebuilding the walls around us.

- 3. Nehemiah heard first-hand about the sad conditions in Jerusalem and was burdened to do something about it. He was a man of action. With all the overwhelming needs around us, how can you know where God wants you to focus and act? (Matthew 28:19-20) (Response)** [15 min]

### **Leader's Notes:**

*Nehemiah did not know the true condition of Jerusalem until he asked some Jewish survivors who returned from the land. One way to find out where God wants us to focus on is to ask. Talk to cell leaders, AOs or Zone Pastors. Challenge your members to search out and give themselves to the cause of rebuilding broken lives: in their personal lives, in the church and/or outside the church. Perhaps a strained relationship within the*

*family or a family in need due to the pandemic, or reach out to RiverLife Community Services to offer a hand, or help another struggling ministry affected by the lockdown, or any other area that they sense God may be leading them to.*

*Be sensitive to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit in your search. The Holy Spirit will lead you to your burden and calling as you talk to people. Pray alongside your search for God to work in your heart.*

Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting to Cell & Closing the Discussion)

Despite the current disruption, there are always opportunities to walk in God's purposes. With the circuit-breaker measures extended another month, we will have more time on our knees and cry out to God for more ways to reach out and make a difference. Turn our focus away from our self-interests and serve God where He leads. Make yourself available for people with needs. Be the salt and light in this dark world; bring help for the present, and hope for the future.

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## WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. God stops the spread. His protection continues to be on us and heal those infected.
  2. God to open our hearts and burden us with Kingdom purposes in this season.
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**Church Vision**

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

**Mission**

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.