

Restoring The Gate: A Journey of Renewal Through Nehemiah

(Nehemiah 2)

“Permission to Build Again”

September 14, 2025

I. God’s _____ Opens the Door (vv. 1-8)

Then the king asked me, “What is your request?” So I prayed to the God of the heavens and answered the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, send me to Judah and to the city where my ancestors are buried, so that I may rebuild it.” (Nehemiah 2:4–5, CSB)

- **Point: God’s favor makes a way where we cannot.**

II. God’s _____ Clarifies the Need (vv. 11-16)

“After I arrived in Jerusalem and had been there three days, I got up at night and took a few men with me. I didn’t tell anyone what my God had laid on my heart to do for Jerusalem ... I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire.” (Nehemiah 2:11–13, CSB)

- **Point: We cannot rebuild what we refuse to see.**

III. God’s _____ Must Rise Up Together (vv. 17-18)

Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” 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 2:17–18, NIV)

- **Point: Renewal requires unity and shared faith.**

IV. God’s _____ Overcomes Opposition (vv. 19-20)

But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?” I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.” (Nehemiah 2:19–20, NIV)

- **Point: God’s calling will face resistance, but his power prevails.**

Pastor David Bardowell, Senior Pastor
PastorDavid@TheGateOC.com
Info@TheGateOC.com

Restoring the Gate – Week 2 Small Group Guide

Permission to Build Again (Nehemiah 2:1–20)

Opening Icebreaker

- Share about a time when you were given “permission” (at work, home, or life) that gave you courage to move forward.
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Read the Passage – Nehemiah 2:1–20

Take turns reading it out loud.

Discussion Questions

1. God’s Favor Opens the Door (vv. 1–8)

- Why was Nehemiah afraid to speak up before the king?
 - What does this teach us about courage and timing when God opens a door?
 - Where do you need God’s favor to make a way right now?
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2. God’s Vision Clarifies the Need (vv. 11–16)

- Why did Nehemiah inspect the ruins quietly at night?
 - What does this tell us about being honest with the broken areas in our lives and church?
 - In what ways do you see “ruins” at *The Gate* that God wants to rebuild?
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3. God’s People Must Rise Up Together (vv. 17–18)

- Why do you think Nehemiah shared the vision with the people instead of trying to do it alone?
 - What does “Let us rise up and build” look like for our church family?
 - How can *you personally* be part of the rebuilding at *The Gate*?
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4. God’s Power Overcomes Opposition (vv. 19–20)

- What kinds of opposition did Nehemiah face?
 - What kinds of opposition or discouragement can we expect when pursuing renewal?
 - How does remembering “the God of heaven will give us success” change the way we face obstacles?
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Application

- Identify one specific “stone” you can contribute this week (prayer, service, invitation, generosity).
 - As a group, commit to one shared action that moves *The Gate* toward rebuilding.
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Prayer Time

- Pray for courage to step through doors God is opening.
- Pray for unity at *The Gate* as we rebuild together.
- Pray for strength against discouragement and opposition.