

Pacific Growth Group – Sermon Questions

Week of September 14th, 2025

Sermon Series: The Build – An Exploration into Nehemiah

Sermon Theme: “A Holy Burden”

Primary Text(s): Nehemiah 1

1. **Read Nehemiah 1.**
2. *How do you usually respond when you hear bad news about someone you love or a place you care about deeply, like Nehemiah did about Jerusalem?*
 - a. Insight: Nehemiah’s reaction (weeping, fasting, praying) shows his heart's alignment with God.
 - b. Follow-up Prompt: “What might it look like for us to slow down and respond in prayer first, rather than rushing to fix things?”
3. A “holy burden” is God placing His concern on your heart so that what breaks His heart begins to break ours. *What’s an example of a burden God may be placing on your heart right now?*
 - a. Leader Note: Encourage both personal (family, faith, workplace) and societal (injustice, violence, community needs) examples.
 - b. Follow-up Prompt: “How might God be calling you to pray or act in response to that burden?”
4. *The Coventry Cathedral ruins remained as a testimony of both loss and renewal. How can past “ruins” in our lives serve as reminders of God’s work?*
 - a. Leader Note: Encourage testimonies. Some may mention past failures, griefs, or hardships that God used for growth.
 - b. Follow-up Prompt: “How can your ‘ruins’ encourage others who are still in the rubble?”
5. *What areas of your life (personal, relational, spiritual, communal) most need rebuilding right now?*
 - a. Leader Note: Allow space for honesty. Some may identify with broken relationships, others with burnout, faith struggles, or cultural discouragement.
 - b. Follow-up Prompt: “If Nehemiah’s story teaches us anything, it’s that God delights to rebuild. How does that give you hope?”

6. *How does confession restore our relationship with God, like an apology restores friendship?*
 - a. Leader Note: Emphasize that confession doesn't inform God of what He doesn't know; it opens the door for renewed intimacy.
 - b. Follow-up Prompt: "Have you experienced freedom or healing after confession? How did it change things?"
7. *What makes confession hard for us today? What helps you practice it sincerely?*
 - a. Leader Note: People may mention pride, fear, or shame. Others may note that a trusted friend, accountability group, or Scripture helps them.
 - b. Follow-up Prompt: "What rhythms (like prayer, journaling, or communion) can help confession become a normal part of your walk with God?"
8. *Nehemiah prayed for God's favour before approaching the king. What does seeking God's favour look like in your daily life?*
 - a. Insight: Favour doesn't mean earning God's approval—it's asking Him to align circumstances and hearts.
 - b. Follow-up Prompt: "Where in your life do you most need God's favour to open doors right now?"
9. *How does knowing we already have favour through Jesus (Hebrews 4:16) change the way we approach God with our burdens?*
 - a. Leader Note: Draw out the contrast between fear and confidence.
 - b. Follow-up Prompt: "If you truly believed God delights to hear you, how might your prayers sound different?"
10. *How can we as a group or church carry holy burdens together, rather than just individually?*
 - a. Insight: This connects to the theme of community rebuilding.
 - b. Follow-up Prompt: "What's one way we can pray or act together as a group this week?"