



# COMMUNITY GROUPS

## ALL IN: A STUDY OF NEHEMIAH

### SESSION 2: THE PROVISION

After God birthed a dream in Nehemiah's heart to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem and restore the people out of their disgrace, he had an important encounter with his boss, King Artaxerxes.

**Nehemiah 2:1-4a (NLT)** – Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence. <sup>2</sup> So the king asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled." Then I was terrified, <sup>3</sup> but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire." <sup>4</sup> The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?"

1. **Has anyone ever said, "How can I help you?" when it comes to a dream? If so, how did they help? If not, how did you struggle?**
2. **When King Artaxerxes asked, "How can I help you," Nehemiah whispered a prayer to God and then replied:**

"If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried.' The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, 'How long will you be gone? When will you return?' After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request." (Nehemiah 2:5-6)

**What does it look like to pursue a God-inspired dream while under the leadership of somebody in authority over us?**

3. **Nehemiah's request wasn't done. Nehemiah 2:7-8 says:**

"I also said to the king, 'If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah. <sup>8</sup> And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself.' And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me."

**Can you think of a time in your life when you felt like God's gracious hand was on you because a special request was granted to you?**

4. **Nehemiah experienced two blessings as He pursued his dream: God's favor and God's provision. Can you share a time when God gave you favor and/or provision in a certain area of your life?**

5. **Two leaders from the Old Testament—Nehemiah and Joseph—both experienced God's favor and provision.**

Nehemiah **PRAYED** for favor and provision when he said, "Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me" (Nehemiah 1:11).

Joseph, on the other hand, **PREPARED** for favor and provision. Repeatedly in his story, God showed favor to Joseph. Why? Joseph prepared his character by living with integrity, walking in humility, and growing his capacity.

**We don't deserve and we can't demand God's favor and provision. But we can pray for it and prepare for it. How does this challenge you today?**

6. **What favor and provision do you need from God to see your dreams fulfilled?**

**PRAYER:**

Every dream requires favor and provision. Pray together as a group, asking God for his favor and provision for the specific needs of the group and their God-inspired dreams.