

**Defeating Discouragement****March 18, 2012**

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

- What's one of the biggest obstacles you've overcome? How did you overcome it and what did you learn from your experience?

**With your Bible or YouVersion, read Nehemiah 4:1-23.**

In this passage, Nehemiah overcomes the opposition and discouragement he faced in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

- How do you typically respond to opposition and criticism?
- What steps have you taken towards carrying out your mission? If you haven't moved forward, what obstacles are keeping you from doing so?
- Do you find external or internal discouragement the most difficult to deal with? Explain.
- How do you plan to handle opposition and discouragement as you fight for your cause?
- Opposition is not always bad. How have you seen God use opposition to strengthen you?
- One way to defeat discouragement is to remember the Lord. What are some of the great things you've seen God do throughout your life?
- Do you feel passionate enough about your cause to

fight for it? Why or why not?

- In what ways do you need the help of God and others in fighting for your cause?

Nehemiah became the perfect example of how an ordinary person changed his world when he rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem in just 52 days. During this series, read through the Book of Nehemiah and learn directly from God's Word how you can become a world-changer.

- This week read Nehemiah 7, 8, 9, and 10 and allow God to speak to you as you read His Word.

**My Next Step Today Is To . . .**

- Admit that I am at a low and that I want to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior so that I can find life.
- Defeat discouragement by remembering God's work and standing up for the cause that is breaking my heart.
- Join Pastor Chris in praying and fasting for God to work through our church during the month of March..
- Meditate on and/or memorize Nehemiah 4:14

**Talk It Over with God:**

These prayer tips can guide your time alone with God each day. Praying with a friend or a small group might help you stick to it.

- Share with God the opposition and discouragement you are currently facing. Ask Him to give you strength.
- Ask God to help turn all opposition you face into a strength instead of a weakness.
- Take time to remember God. Praise Him and thank Him for all He has done and will continue to do in your life.
- Ask God to help stir the passion you need within you to fight for your cause.
- Ask God to carefully guide your steps as you continue to take action on carrying out your mission.