



GOD IS ABLE, Part 2  
Sermon Small Group Notes  
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

## USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
  1. one section of questions
  2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

## INTRODUCTION

God is Able to do something bigger than all of us! In theory (Greek philosophy) we learn that "The Whole is Greater than the sum of it's parts". If you have ever been involved in something and it didn't take long before you realized you were in over your head? Or you had signed up for was far beyond your capacity to complete?... Well, that's where God wants you to live". You have been designed and called to be a part of something that only God can accomplish.

[Ephesians 3:20]

*God is able to do much more than we can ask or think, according to His mighty power that works in us.*

*We are in a season of great faith and believing, for God to do more through us, than we have ever seen Him do in the history of our church.*

Why is God calling us to this season? Because God has given us much!

1. Right now, there are more than 200 million non-churched people in America, making America one of the four largest “unchurched” nations in the world.
2. Each year about 3,500 churches in the U.S. close their doors permanently.
3. The average weekend attendance of Churches in America is 80 people
4. Today, of the approximately 400,000 Evangelical churches in America, four out of five are either stagnate or declining in numbers.
5. TFH, which currently consist of more than 6% of our Cities’ population, represents less that 1% of churches in our nation , that are experiencing that kind of growth and influence in their community.

Let’s look at the book of Nehemiah and look at some parallels between us and the people of Israel under the Leadership of Nehemiah:

Here is the background of the story before we go to the scripture...

- Nehemiah has lived in a foreign land most of his life... he works for the King of Persia in the capital City of Souza and one day his brother visits from the land of Judah, near Jerusalem, and they have a chat which releases a burden and a vision in the heart of Nehemiah.

Nehemiah 2:17-20

17 Then [Nehemiah] said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace." 18 I told them that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me, and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us start building!" So they committed themselves to the common good.

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they mocked and ridiculed us, saying, "What is this that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" 20 Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven is the one who will give us success, and we his servants are going to start building; but you have no share or claim or historic right in Jerusalem."

Nehemiahs passion ignites a movement in the people of God and they do something that is beyond imagination... they rebuild the walls of the destroyed city in 52 DAYS!

4 thoughts about Building:

1. The re-building of the wall was a physical structure with huge spiritual impact!

Look around you on any given weekend and you will see the evidence of the spiritual impact that has taken place over the years here at TFH. **You** may even be the evidence.

2. The re-building interrupted the status quo

It had been 141 years since the captivity of Israel and the captives that were led away to Babylon had raised their children in captivity, who raised their children in captivity until bondage and shame became the status quo. The former glory of Jerusalem, the temple, the Ark of God and the fame of the City of the Great King was a faded memory.

As a church we must strive for more of God, the freshness of the Holy Spirit the lost to be rescued and not settle for just another Sunday. Let's build a house for the Glory of God!

3. God's provision to build was released as God's people responded to the opportunity.

Jesus takes a boys lunch and feeds over 5000 people... Elijah ask a widow to cook him a meal and God provides miraculously for the widow and her son.

When you partner with God with the little you have in your hands and see His miraculous provision you will find a whole new level of faith and boldness in your finances!

4. The scope of the vision required the power of Teamwork !

Nehemiah 3;

17 Next to him,

18 Next down the line were his countrymen led by Binnui son of Henadad

19 Next to them, Ezer son of Jeshua, repaired another section of wall

25 Next to him were Pedaiiah son of Parosh,

27 Then came the people of Tekoa, Each one repaired the section near his own house.

They worked together, with what they had in their hand... What has God put in your hand?

As we move, under Gods direction, to build a larger building to facilitate all the He is doing ask yourself, "What is God calling me to do in this season of our church.?"

Let's look at what Nehemiah and the children of Israel accomplished, as they applied their resources with Gods vision and passion to build a place for His Glory.

Nehemiah 6:15-17

So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all those who hated us heard about it, all the nations around us were afraid and troubled. For they saw that this work had been done with the help of our God.

Let's build a house for the Glory of God and watch as He enables us to accomplish His will for our region.

***“The Joy of accomplishing the vision will live on, far after the pain of temporary sacrifice is forgotten”***

Dr. Wendell Smith

That is what we're about in our IMAGINE campaign... building a physical location that will have eternal, spiritual impact!

“...something bigger than all of us”

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Have you ever been a part of something that required more than you had to offer? What was it, and what was accomplished through your team effort?
2. Share an example from your life when, “The Whole is Greater than the sum of it's parts” was evident.
3. Thinking about TFH being among, less than 1% of churches in our nation that are experiencing growth and influence on our community... why do you think that is?
4. What would be seen in Gods eyes as bondage and captivity, that we might see as "Status Quo"?
5. It is likely that you are a child of God because He placed you in front of someone who responded to the voice of God to reach out to you... What, or who has God put right in front of you that He is calling you to take some level of responsibility for?
6. What could God do through us with a larger building to help facilitate all that He wants to do? Come on... Go ahead and dream about it.