



 Unreasonable.
FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

WEEK 1

VISION

Read Luke 15:3-6

- **Have you ever been lost before? Have you been somewhere you didn't know which way to go? Tell a story of a time you were lost and how you felt at that time.**

When it comes to God, being lost doesn't mean you took a wrong turn in the grocery store and lost sight of God. It means your heart feels far away or disconnected from Him. God promises us that he will come to find us.

It doesn't make sense that God would leave 99 to find 1. God cares about lost people because he created us to be connected to Him and loves everyone so much that he wants to see everyone brought back to Him.

- **What do you think it means for someone to be lost from God? Is there anyone you know who is lost (disconnected from God)?**

Read Nehemiah 1:7-9

If God is concerned with helping lost people, then we should be too. In the book of Nehemiah, Nehemiah is called back to help the lost people of Jerusalem. The people in Jerusalem had made a lot of bad decisions and they had been exiled (sent away). Even though the people had made really poor decisions that hurt God, God still wanted to see them brought back to him. Nehemiah had a calling placed on his heart, he was compelled to go back and restore Jerusalem even though it didn't make sense and it would be hard and scary. What does this look like in our life?

- **Take a couple minutes and ask God how He might want to use you to reach people far from Him.**
- **What is one step you can take this week to reach people who are far from God?**

Prayer: God, we thank you for caring about the lost, for caring about us even when we were lost. God I ask that you would put us on a mission for you, show us people that are lost, in need of a Savior. Would you give us the strength and the confidence to tell others about you, to reach the lost so that they may know you more? Amen.

WEEK 2

PROJECTS

Read Nehemiah 2:13

The story is telling us that Nehemiah inspected the walls and anticipated the building that was coming. He knew that God was stirring up something in his heart.

- **Have you ever built a really complicated lego set or puzzle and anticipated what was coming?**

Nehemiah 2:17

A lot of times God invites people to partner with Him to build something special or significant and it isn't always just adults, it's everyone. God wants to use your life to build something important. Something that will help bring honor and glory to God so that more people would know Him.

- **Can you think of any stories in the Bible where God asks someone to build something to honor him or to help his people?**
- **What are some things that God might be asking you to help build in your life?**

Prayer: God, we ask that you would use us to build something that brings you honor, whether it's a friendship, a team, or the giving of our resources so that others may know more about you. Would you tell us what you want us to build and would you teach us to listen to what you want us to do and build. And when we say yes, would you give us the strength and would we know that you are with us, providing for us and keeping us safe. Amen.

WEEK 3

GIVING

Read Nehemiah 3:1-2

When we read all of Nehemiah 3 we see that many people with many talents came together to help rebuild the wall and that they all used different skills. Just like God had given all the builders special talents, God has given all of us special gifts that will help us to glorify and honor Him.

- **What is something that is unique about you? It could be a special talent, skill, or thing about you. Why is it unique?**

The gifts or talents God has given us were not given to us so that we can make our names higher or greater than others but to bring glory and honor to God. God might ask us to use our gifts in ways that we are scared to do or things that make us uncomfortable and he might have given someone a gift that you want, but God knows exactly what talent and gift you were meant to have, because it is the perfect one that you will use to bring honor and glory to Him. As they rebuilt the wall they needed every job to be done in order to finish it.

- **What is one way that you could use your gifts or talents to serve God?**
- **What do you think it means to sacrifice something for God?**

Prayer: God, We thank you for the gifts that you have given us. We thank you for the opportunity to partner with you and to serve you in every way. God would you use us and use the gifts that you have given us to bring glory and honor to your name. Would we be willing to sacrifice anything so that your name would be lifted higher. In Jesus' name, Amen.



WEEK 4

GIVING



Nehemiah 4:8

Last week we talked about building a really complicated lego set. Now imagine you are building that lego set and your little sibling keeps coming and knocking it over. That would be really hard and maybe frustrating. Sometimes when we are building something for God, it can feel the same way, people might come against us or try to get us to stop.. This happened to Nehemiah, all the other people didn't want the Israelites to succeed.

- **Have you ever been building something and had someone come and try to knock it down? What did that feel like?**

Nehemiah 4:14

Even though people came against them and it was hard, they trusted that God would be with them and they prayed and they remembered who was on their side, the mighty and powerful God. No matter what, they knew that God would provide for them the resources, strength, and protection they needed to finish rebuilding the wall.

- **What is one thing we can do when it feels hard to continue building what God has asked us to build?**
- **How can we remind ourselves to trust God's plan instead of our own?**

Prayer: God, thank you for always being with us no matter what. We ask that whenever we receive opposition to serving you that we would turn to you, that you would give us the strength to continue on and that we would remember that we do it all to serve you. Remind us that your plans are always better than ours. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WEEK 5

COMMITMENT

Read Luke 15:20-24

In our first devotional we saw that God is the kind of Father who goes after the one sheep and it may feel unreasonable to us, but to God who is rich in love and mercy it is worth it. In the verses we just read we see that the Father, who is God, welcomes His son home with open arms, committed to showing Him love and mercy even though he had messed up.

It is because of God's commitment to showing love and mercy that we should be committed to serving him above everything else. As we read Nehemiah, we see that above all else Nehemiah was committed to seeing the walls completed and honor being brought to God. God has given us everything and now we have the opportunity to serve Him. Over the past few weeks, we talked about the lost people we know in our lives who need Jesus, the gifts God has given us, what he might be asking us to build in our lives, and what to do when opposition comes. Why be a part of God's story? To some it may seem unreasonable, but for those who have experienced the love, salvation, and freedom found in God, it is the only thing that makes sense at all. As we finish our Unreasonable sermon series we consider this one question.

- **How do you take a step to be a part of God's story today?**
- **Take a couple minutes to write down what step God has for you and place it somewhere you can see it everyday.**

Prayer: God we thank you for your love and mercy. We thank you for your commitment to our salvation. As we move forward would you continue to be with us, show us the next right step in serving you. Let us be committed to the lost and committed to serving you above anything else. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.