

## Discussion Guide

[For Small Groups]

### Icebreaker

1. Last week we talked about some things that we would like to accomplish in 2010. Share any steps that you have taken toward accomplishing those things.
2. Share with the group something that you feel God has been speaking to you this week.

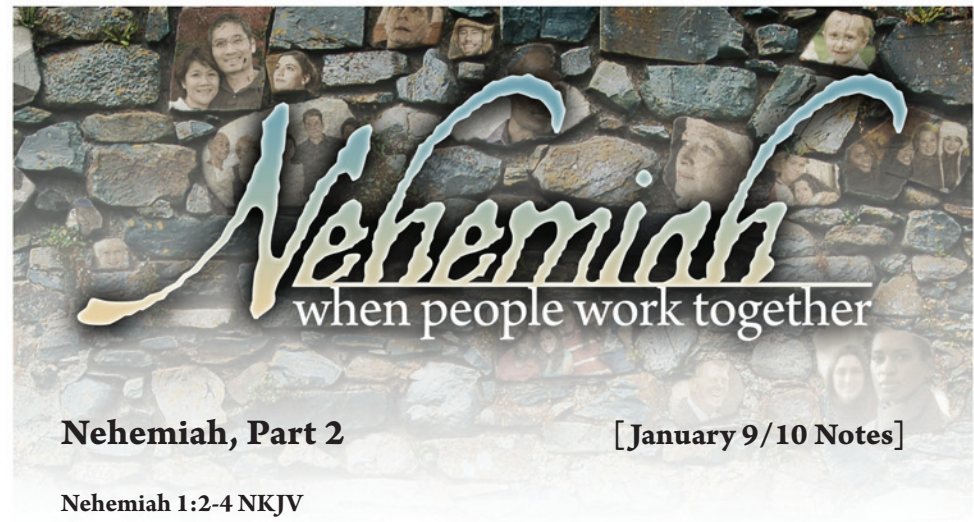
### Group Discussion

1. **Read Philippians 3:12.**  
Reflect for a minute on your life.
  - a. Has there been a time when a lack of vision in your life caused you to deal with dissatisfaction?
  - b. If so, share with the group what you have done to help work through that in your life.
2. **Read Luke 2:19 & James 4:7-10.**  
Discuss how prayer and fasting helps us to submit our vision to God.
  - a. How does refraining from food help us to hear from God more clearly?
3. **Pastor Sam said, "Vision puts a pep in our step and a sparkle in our eye."**
  - a. Discuss how that has happened in your life or what you need to do to have it happen in your life.
4. **Read Nehemiah 2:1-10 as a group.**
  - a. What did Nehemiah need to do to be able to begin to accomplish his vision?
  - b. What opposition have you had to face as you worked to fulfill a vision that God has for you?
  - c. Share how others have helped you to fulfill a vision.
5. **Pastor Sam talked about how God is calling us to step out of the boat and follow the visions and dreams that God has for us.**
  - a. Share with the group a vision or a dream that you have allowed to die and what you might need to do to resurrect that vision.

### Prayer Points

1. Pray for our congregation as we continue the 40-day fast
2. Pray that God would revive in us the dreams and vision that he has for our lives.
3. Pray that God would speak to each one of us in the coming days.

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## Nehemiah, Part 2

[January 9/10 Notes]

### Nehemiah 1:2-4 NKJV

1. Nehemiah had a concern for the condition of people's lives.
2. In God's kingdom we have a place, purpose, and function to fulfill and that makes our life valuable.

### Philippians 3:12 NKJV

3. There is a purpose for each of us to fulfill.
4. Many times a person's vision or assignment is to come alongside and help someone else.
5. The quality of our life is determined by our vision.
6. Dissatisfaction usually doesn't come from an absence of things but a lack of vision and direction.
7. It is important for every vision to go through a time in the womb of your heart.

### Luke 2:19 NKJV

8. Praying and fasting puts meat on the bones of your vision.
9. Praying and fasting is submitting your vision to God and allowing Him to shape the vision in your heart.

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## Nehemiah, Part 2

[Notes, Continued]

### James 4:7-10 NKJV

Biblical fasting is refraining from food for a spiritual purpose.

### Luke 4:1-2 NKJV

Vision puts a pep in our step and a sparkle in our eye.

10. Fasting dethrones King Stomach and brings a sharpness to the mind and an increased sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.

### Nehemiah 2:1-10 NKJV

11. Prayer and fasting brings us to the point of obedience.

12. Prayer and fasting instills a godly boldness in us.

13. When God gives a vision, there will be opposition.

14. To fulfill a vision, we will need the help of others.

15. Vision causes us to be an on-purpose person.

### Isaiah 1:19 NKJV

### Matthew 14:22-33 NKJV

## Bible Study

[Personal Response]

1. Pastor Sam showed us this week how God led Nehemiah to pray and fast concerning his vision. We see how prayer and fasting can bring us to the point of obedience, instill a godly boldness, give us courage through opposition, and supernaturally connect us with others to fulfill the vision (Nehemiah 2:1-10). As well as you understand your personal life vision, write it down below:

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2. Pastor Sam said our vision affects the quality of our life and the quality of life for others. Take a moment and write down a few ways you and others have been positively affected by the vision God gave you.

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3. Are you taking part in the 40-days of fasting? If not, it isn't too late to begin. Consider fasting this week. As part of your fast, dedicate some of the purpose of it towards your vision. Allow God to put "meat on the bones of it," as Pastor Sam says. Write down the new aspects or ways you can carry out your vision for 2010.

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4. This week, be intentional to continue your Bible reading. Consider reading along with Pastor Sam

- **Sunday** – Psalms 10, Proverbs 10, Matthew 10, Acts 10, Romans 10
- **Monday** – Psalms 11, Proverbs 11, Matthew 11, Acts 11, Romans 11
- **Tuesday** – Psalms 12, Proverbs 12, Matthew 12, Acts 12, Romans 12
- **Wednesday** – Psalms 13, Proverbs 13, Matthew 13, Acts 13, Romans 13
- **Thursday** – Psalms 14, Proverbs 14, Matthew 14, Acts 14, Romans 14
- **Friday** – Psalms 15, Proverbs 15, Matthew 15, Acts 15, Romans 15
- **Saturday** – Psalms 16, Proverbs 16, Matthew 16, Acts 16, Romans 16

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