

GROWTIME

"SO NEITHER HE WHO PLANTS NOR HE WHO WATERS IS ANYTHING, BUT ONLY GOD WHO GIVES THE GROWTH."

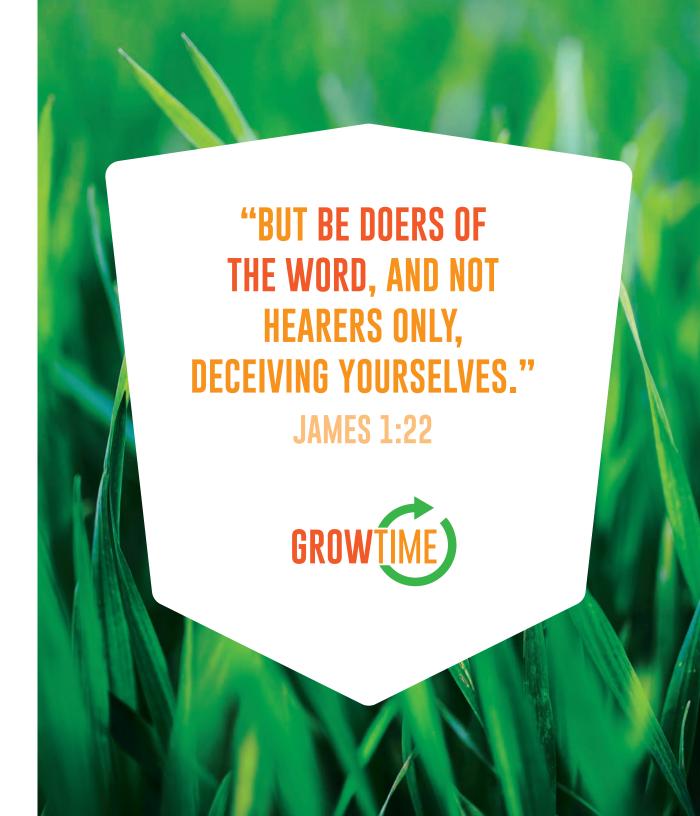
1 CORINTHIANS 3:7



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THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:





Dear Family,

As you know, it's normal and natural for something alive to grow. At the same time, growth is intentional, not automatic according to 2 Peter 3:18: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:7 says, "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." That means we're in partnership with God as we do all we can to grow while relying on Him who alone gives the growth.

I often thank God for the faithful followers at Edgewood, much like the Apostle Paul did when he thought of the believers at Thessalonica: "We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing" (2 Thessalonians 1:3). I love that your faith is growing abundantly and your love is increasing.

I'm thrilled the Edgewood family is about to enter a time of accelerated growth. May God stir us and revive us for the fame of His glorious name.

It's grow time! Are you ready?

Paster From

HIS STORY

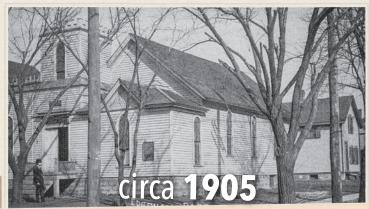


1 Chronicles 12:32 says there were men from Issachar, "who understood the times and knew what Israel should do." Ever since the founding of Edgewood, faithful men and women have always been acutely aware of the times in which they lived. The people in the past stepped out with courageous faith at the right time and at the right place to do what God was calling them to do.

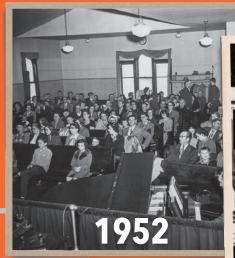
In 1905, over 40 charter members of Edgewood covenanted together: "...to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations."

Edgewood has always been a church on the move – literally. The first building was picked up and moved twice...the second time on a wagon pulled by horses! From its very beginning, Edgewood's DNA has been marked by renovation and expansion.

















2017

Mainspring, ministry to college and twenties began; partnership with Aspen approved for maximizing space for ministry impact.

2016

Launched Serving Saturday in

Mission" on Moody Radio.

community; website redesign and

introduction of mobile app; began "On

2019
Projected completion of

GROWTIME

2015 Solidified partnerships with 7 Go Team Partners in the Quad Cities.

2013

Pastor Brian begins as Senior Pastor.

2014

Implementation of Gather, Grow, Give and Go emphasis; addition of Global Go Teams to least reached parts of the world.

Property was purchased to the south of the facility.

Celebrate Recovery begins.

1993

The gym was constructed.

The lobby was expanded and the library and stairways were added.

Edgewood purchased land and constructed our present facility on 38th Street.

Pastor Mel Brown begins as senior pastor.

The facility on 44th Street was expanded.







We now stand at another defining moment...one that is critical to the future of Edgewood. Our generosity today will benefit those who come after us. Just as God's people were faithful in the past, now it's our time to impact the next generation.

Every time Edgewood has tackled a facility project, faith grew and it produced fruit. Pastor Tim, who has served at EBC nearly four decades, says it this way: "In each of these times, something good happened as a result of improving or expanding our facility."

It's grow time again as we seek to maximize our facilities. During this season at Edgewood, we're praying we will grow in three key areas:











"...we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (Ephesians 4:15). We're encouraging everyone to take his or her next faith step by going deeper with Christ. Through sermons, Growth Groups, family study and individual growth, we're asking God to stretch our faith.

Our ultimate goal is not an expansion of facilities but for growth in our faith, as we trust God to expand and renovate our hearts and lives. As Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please him..." Grow Time is all about faith raising, not fundraising. As God stirs each of us individually and awakens us to take our next step, we hope to see Him do amazing things.





"...holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God" (Colossians 2:19). As we grow individually, we will see greater growth in our church family. When all of us move from "me" to "we," we recognize we're part of something much bigger.



GROW OUR FUTURE

Grow our Future – "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts" (Psalm 145:4). Since we are a multi-generational family, we can leave a legacy of faith along with expanded and renovated facilities for the next generation. This will allow us to give toward something that will impact those who will live beyond us. In a very real sense, this is a way to leave a legacy to the younger generation and further God's kingdom.



PLANTING SEEDS OF GROWTH BY...

- Improving and expanding space for young families, including a secure nursery and children's area.
 - Creating additional space in our sanctuary to solve the overflow issue and enhancements to our seating, sound, video and lighting.
 - Establishing additional connection space in the lobby for fellowship and conversation.

MORE EXCITING THINGS INCLUDED IN THIS PROJECT:

- A full-size elevator and a wide staircase for easy access to the lower level.
- Signage and "way-finding" to help people navigate our facility.
- More rooms will be available for Sunday Growth Groups.
- Increased security in our children's wing.
- Additional and more functional restrooms.
- All staff offices in the same area.
- Additional parking with new entrances and exits to 38th Street.

Buildings don't change lives, but what happens inside does. We're not interested in building a monument or a museum – we are a hospital for sick sinners and a place of grace for those out of place.





AND THEY SAID, 'LET US RISE UP AND BUILD.' NEHEMIAH 2:18



OUR GOALS



100% PARTICIPATION

Grow Time is first and foremost a discipleship initiative.

Together, we want to learn new things about God and about ourselves. Can you imagine what would happen if every single person at Edgewood chooses to participate and to grow in generosity, becoming more like Christ?

Whether you've never given anything before, or you're a consistent and thoughtful giver, we believe there is a next step God is asking all of us to take in our stewardship of the financial resources He has entrusted to us to manage. We are asking all of us to pray earnestly about what that is.

We want every single person to take his or her next step in discipleship and to grow in generosity.

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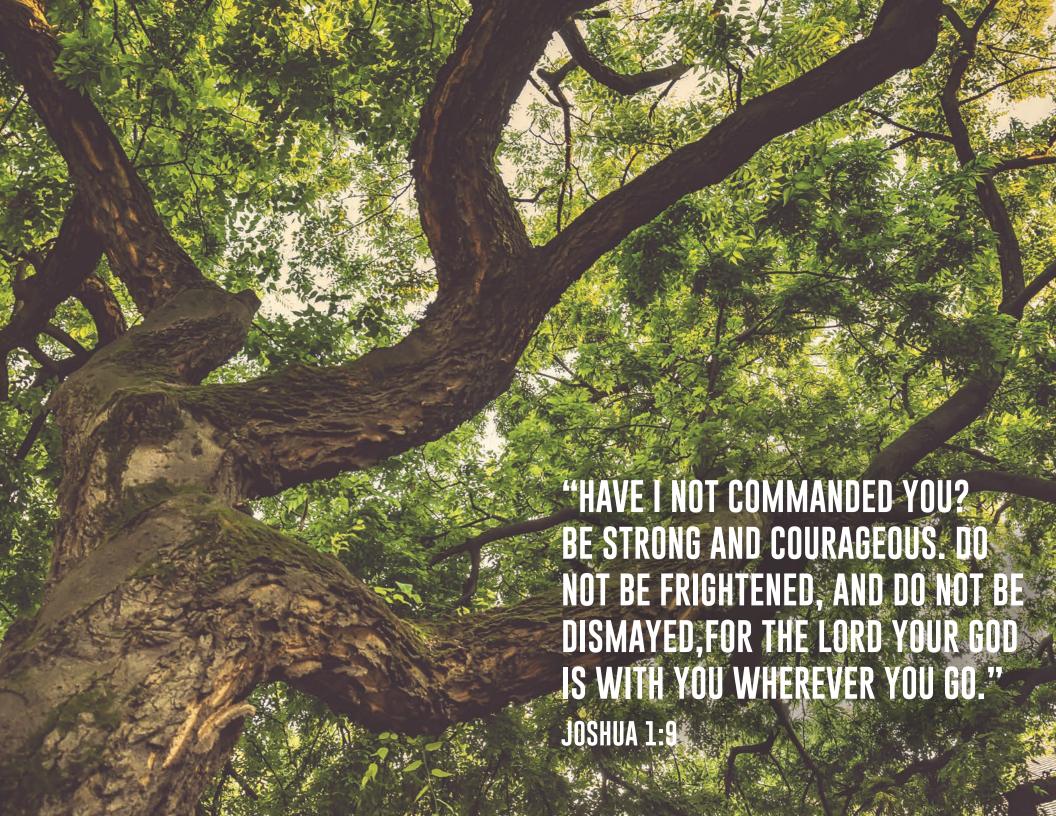
MEET TWO-YEAR VISION GOAL

The total cost of this project is \$5.9 million. We will be using \$600,000 from our reserve fund to get started which means we are trusting God to provide \$5.3 million over the next two years.

This fall we'll be studying the Book of Nehemiah where we'll see the importance of growing in faith, growing as a family and growing for the future.

During the month of November, we'll have the opportunity to make a two-year faith-filled financial commitment. Ten percent of our initial Grow Time offering will go to fund initiatives among our Go Team partners locally and globally. This will help us expand our gospel reach through our ministry partners.

As we trust God to grow our generosity, let's remember that offerings given to Grow Time are over and above our regular giving to the ministry of Edgewood.



HOW TO RESPOND

PRAY BOLDLY

- Cry out to God to spiritually awaken Edgewood and the Quad Cities as more and more people "give themselves first to the Lord" (2 Corinthians 8:5).
- Plead for Christ to be formed in people. Galatians 4:19: "My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!" Physical facilities are simply tools to help us accomplish the mission God has called us to.
- Implore God to establish a culture of radical generosity among the next generation that leads to a life-style of stewardship.
- Ask God to move within us so we have 100% participation! No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.

"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you."

1 Chronicles 29:14

GROWINTENTIONALLY

Gather for every weekend service this fall by plugging into a Sunday or midweek Growth Group and by diving into God's Word like never before. When God makes your next growth step clear, step out in obedience.

3 COMMIT FULLY

Participate in this defining moment for Edgewood. Help us reach our goal of 100% engagement in "Grow Time." Commit to do what God asks you to do. If you're part of a family, huddle up and decide how God is leading you as a team.

4 GIVE GENEROUSLY

Take a few moments and locate where you are on the pathway of giving. Consider taking that next step to increase your impact. Whether you're brand-new or have been giving to Edgewood for a long time, we're asking you to prayerfully consider taking that next step of growth. Ask God about making a two-year commitment where you will invest more than ever before in things with eternal values.

SACRIFICIAL

I generously give more than 10% of my income.

FAITHFUL

I faithfully give 10% of my income.

PROPORTIONAL

I give a percentage of my income on a regular basis, but less than 10%.

INTENTIONAL

I give a set amount on a regular basis.

INITIAL

I have not yet given to the Lord through Edgewood.



TWO-YEAR GIFT CHART

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during the Grow Time initiative, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool–let it be something that inspires and challenges you towards greater generosity and growth for Christ's Kingdom as we seek to give it all for Him.

Gifts Needed	Two-Year Gift Level	Annual Gift	Monthly Gift	Gift Level Total
1	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$500,000
2	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$500,000
5	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$750,000
8	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$800,000
10	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$750,000
10	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$500,000
10	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$1,250	\$300,000
10	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$250,000
10	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$150,000
15	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$150,000
28	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$210,000
40	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$200,000
100	\$2,400	\$1,250	\$100	\$240,000
MANY	1,000	\$500	\$42	
MANY	OTHER			
			TOTAL	\$5,300,000

Knowing God can do more than we ask or imagine, in faith I/we intend to give to the *Grow Time* initiative **over and above** our regular giving for the next two years.

I/We plan to give accordingly:

	\$ Weekly for 104 weeks
H	\$ Monthly for 24 months
	\$ Annually for 2 years

Total two-year pledge amount: \$

This is a statement of my intention to give. I understand I can revise it at any time by contacting the church financial office.

Name

Email

GROWING IN GENEROSITY

As we focus on the Grow Time initiative, we will all have the opportunity to fill out a commitment card (sample pictured on the left) during the November 10-11 weekend services. This card is designed to help you arrive at the total amount you believe the Lord is calling you to give to Edgewood over the next two years.

WHAT DOES SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY LOOK LIKE?

Start with a number that seems doable - a number you can make work.

Now, pick a number that is truly GENEROUS – a number that would require sacrifice, a significant lifestyle change, and dependence upon God alone.

We want to challenge you to pick THAT number. Let's walk together in faith to see our lives transformed and our community impacted for His Kingdom!



May the words written by Pastor
Brown in our 100-year Anniversary
Booklet become our rally cry
today: "One hundred years ago
a small group of Christians who
founded the Edgewood Baptist
Church had a vision for the new
congregation's future coupled
with the determination to make it
happen...now, one hundred years
later, we look forward to our
future with the same vision and
determination. Our task today is
to commit ourselves to carry out
the rich heritage given to us..."





Where can I learn more and check on the status of Grow Time?

We plan to post regular updates on our website and through our e-newsletter.

Can I begin giving to Grow Time right now?

Absolutely. Please indicate "Grow Time" on your check memo or select "Grow Time" if you prefer to give digitally.

What forms of contributions will be accepted?

You can give cash, by check, or digitally through our app or website. If you'd like to give stocks, bonds, real estate, gifts in kind, etc., please contact us for more information.

How can I give?

Be creative as you explore ways to give. Seek Christ and His kingdom and be willing to sacrifice. Perhaps you could forego a few caramel machiatos or unplug your cable. Is there something God might want you to sell? Involve your entire family so you can teach the next generation about generosity.

What if I can't make a substantial financial commitment?

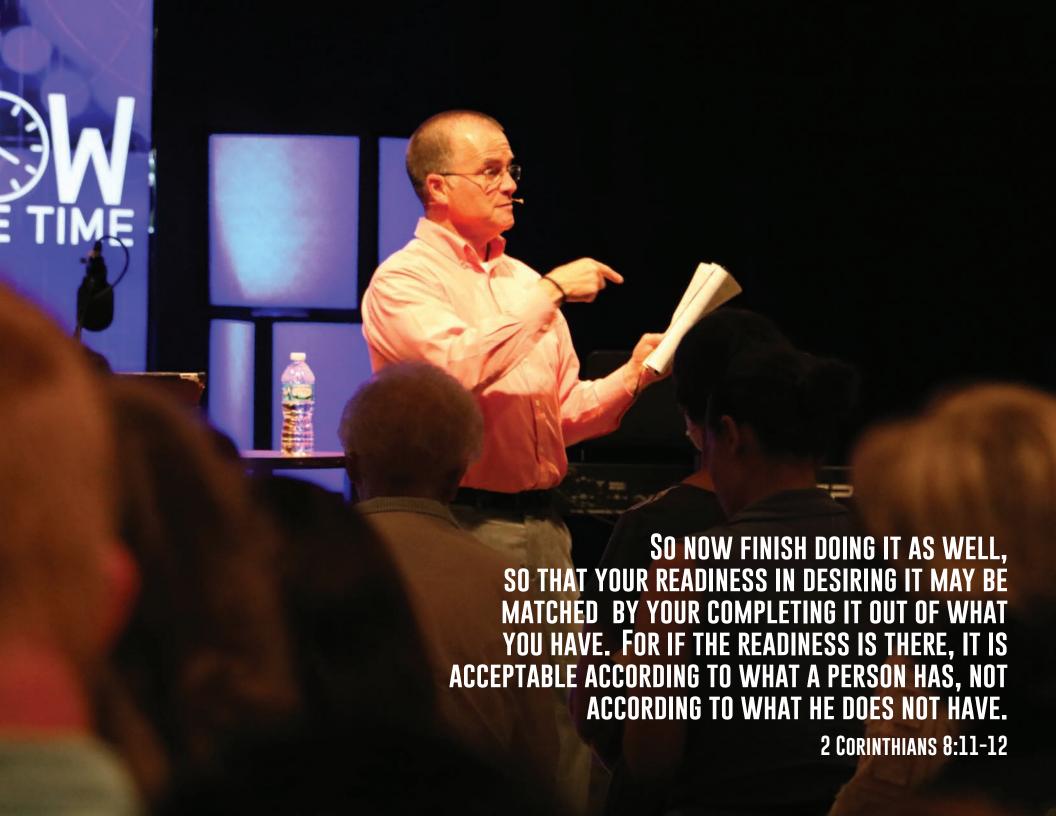
The key is not how much we give but that we participate as God leads each of us. Remember the widow who gave a little actually gave a lot (see Mark 12:42-44). Biblical giving is not about equal amounts, but equal sacrifice. If you can't give, would you please pray?

Do I have to be a member of Edgewood?

No. Grow Time is a great time to jump in and partner with us as we grow in our faith, as a family and into the future. This could be a great time to identify with Edgewood as a way to impact the next generation. If you are considering membership, you may want to attend one of our Next Steps classes.

How long is my commitment to Grow Time?

We're asking everyone to consider making a two-year pledge over and above your regular giving to the ongoing ministry of Edgewood. And we are asking everyone to consider giving a special gift during the first two weekends in December to kick-off our Grow Time generosity initiative.



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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WEEK ONE: Knowing How to Pray

Nehemiah 1

Opening the Discussion

- 1. Share something for which you are thankful for from this past week (family, faith, circumstances, events, problems, blessings, etc.).
- 2. As you reflect on the weekend message, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful or insightful?
- 3. What's one thing from the message you hope we talk about as a group?

Growing Deeper

- 1. Read verses 3 & 4. Pastor Brian said, "It's so easy for us to stay uninvolved and unaware" but Nehemiah resisted this. What did he do to be involved? Why do people often insulate themselves from problems and remain uninvolved and unaware? Why is this approach not wise for Christians to take?
- 2. Read verses 5 & 6. What stands out to you about how Nehemiah thought about who God is and how He responds to those who make requests of Him?
- 3. "Friends, when we go to God in prayer, things get put into their proper perspective" was a conclusion made in the message. How can praying to God change your perspective on the issues and problems of life?

4	I. Read verse 7. In describing this verse, Pastor Brian said "Nehemiah recognized sin is not merely a stubborn refusal to obey certain rules, but is also a defiant act of aggressive personal rebellion against a holy God." How easy is it to be honest about the severity of our sin and what gets in the way of total honesty toward God and self?
ŗ	5. Nehemiah modeled confession of sin in this passage and went on to emphasize God's promises. Why is it important to move on after we confess sin? What causes us to sometimes get stuck in our guilt?
ć	5. What does verse 10 tell us about God?
7	7. Read verse 11. What petitions and commitments are revealed in Nehemiah's words? What does this verse say about the heart of Nehemiah toward the things of God?
8	3. Read 1 John 5:14. What does this verse teach us about God, prayer and our relationship with Him?
١	Nords to Actions
	Pastor Brian mentioned there are four types of prayer modeled by Nehemiah: adoration, thanksgiving, confession and petition. Which of these are strong points in your prayer life and why? Which of these are weak points and why?
2	2. Nehemiah was characterized by a "lifestyle of prayer." What would need to be done in order to grow deeper toward this type of prayer life?
3	3. Martin Luther said, "Pray as if everything depends on God, then work as if everything depends on you." What does this mean and give examples of what it would look like during our "Grow Time Initiative" of expanding our faith, growing as a spiritual family, and our commitment to invest in the future of Edgewood?

WEEK TWO: How to Tackle a Tough Job

Nehemiah 2

Opening the Discussion 1. What was the best thing that happened to you this past week?
2. Reflecting on the weekend sermon, what grabbed your attention?
3. What's one thing from the message you hope we talk about as a group?
Growing Deeper Read verses 1-10. 1. What strikes you about the spirituality of Nehemiah?
2. Pastor Brian said that Nehemiah used waiting, trusting, praying, planning, and testifying as necessary tools for the tough job of building the wall. Which of these do you fin easier or harder to use? Explain why.
3. What makes it so hard to wait on God's timing? What are the benefits of waiting?
4. How does faith and trust in God conquer fear?
5. Why are prayer and planning equally important when facing a task?
6. What do you think happens in our soul when we take the time to verbally testify to how God is working in our lives?

Read verses 11-20.7. What are the benefits of taking the time to assess a problem before taking action?
8. Nehemiah took initiative to recruit workers to build the wall. What excuses might the people have given as reasons for not contributing. Which ones resonate with you?
9. Pastor Brian said that the central theme of Nehemiah is the "sufficiency of God." What helps you to have confidence in God when facing difficult or troubling issues? How does verse 18 help answer this question?
10. There is always opposition to doing what God wants us to do. How does exalting God help us when facing opposition?
11. Read verse 20. What did Nehemiah say would be the fruit of cooperation? What would be the result of opposition? Why do you think Nehemiah said these words?
Words to Actions1. What are your initial fear factors when you are encouraged to give of our time, talents, and treasure in service to God? What are the remedies?
2. What does replenishing your resources look like for you spiritually, emotionally and physically? Which ones need immediate action?

3. If you were to incorporate the truths of this message, how would this next week be different?

WEEK THREE: Working Well with Others

Nehemiah 3

Opening the Discussion 1. Share something for which you are thankful for from this past week (family, faith, circumstances, events, problems, blessings, etc.).
2. As you reflect on the weekend message, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful or insightful?
3. What's one thing from the message you hope we talk about as a group?
Growing Deeper 1. Pastor Brian said "the glory of God" was Nehemiah's central focus and rallying point. What is the glory of God and why is it important that we attach our actions to it? What does 1 Corinthians 10:31 add to this theme?
2. Rebuilding and rededicating the Sheep's Gate was another way of "establishing that their relationship with God was central." What does Matthew 6:33 contribute to this concept
3. What is it about leaders setting a good example that is encouraging to others?
4. The text shows God uses all kinds of people. What is important about believing that "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something?"
5. How does it make you feel that God has gifted you and strategically placed you where you are? What are some implications of this?

6. Why do some people choose not to work? What are these people missing out on by not serving and getting involved? How do we make sure we do not let their behavior dictate our attitude and actions?
7. The text tells of some workers who did more than was expected. What might be the motivations of a person who does this? What does Colossians 3:23-25 add to this theme?
8. What are the benefits of serving as a family?
9. Read John 15:16-17. What do these verses contribute to the themes of contribution and cooperation?
Words to Actions
1. Pastor Brian asked the following question in his message: "Are you sold-out to God, completely committed and totally devoted to Him?" What can we do to move toward that being a reality?
2. What can we do to help us focus on God when our building is being torn up from construction and we are being inconvenienced?
3. What can we do to move toward this being a reality?

WEEK FOUR: Defeating Discouragement

Nehemiah 4

Opening the Discussion 1. What was the best thing that happened to you this past week?
2. Reflecting on the weekend sermon, what grabbed your attention?
3. What's one thing from the message you hope we talk about as a group?
Growing Deeper Read verses 1-8. 1. Pastor Brian said the book of Nehemiah teaches us that "Where God is at work, the enemy is also at work." What does this saying create in your mind?
2. Nehemiah had to deal with external causes of discouragement: they were ridiculed and threatened by others. Which of these two threats discourages you most and why?
3. What is there about ridicule and being laughed at that makes us want to quit?
Read verses 9-12.
4. The text mentioned three internal causes of discouragement: fatigue, frustration, and fear. Which of these are you most vulnerable to and why? What other internal threats might there he and why do they create discouragement?

5. How can fear generate deception in a person's mind and why is this detrimental to doing what God wants us to do?
6. Pastor Brian mentioned "Those most affected by fear are those who live near pessimistic people." What decisions would diminish or take away this problem?
Read verses 13-23
7. Nehemiah said in verse 14 to "Remember the Lord" in difficult situations. Why do we struggle with this and what are practical ways to accomplish this?
8. One of the ways to cure discouragement is to change your priorities rather than give into the temptation to quit. What would this process look like to you?
Words to Actions
1. Pastor Brian urged us to be "God-gazers" and be encouraged rather than "rubble-gazers" and be discouraged. What are some practical ways we can do this? What does Hebrews 12:1 add to this?
2. Nehemiah helped the builders overcome their fears and discouragement by taking calculated action. What is God prompting you to adjust in your life so that you face your current difficulties with renewed faith in God?
3. Nehemiah urged his people to be concerned for others and work together in order to meet their goal of building the wall. How is God urging you to invest in others through ministry and the giving of time, talents, and treasure?

WEEK FIVE: Staying on Mission

Nehemiah 5-6

Opening the Discussion 1. Share something for which you are thankful for from this past week (family, faith, circumstances, events, problems, blessings, etc.).
2. As you reflect on the weekend message, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful or insightful?
3. What's one thing from the message you hope we talk about as a group?
Growing Deeper 1. Why is it less painful to be hurt by an enemy than to be hurt by a friend (see also Psalm 41:9)?
2. Before Nehemiah responded to the strife among the people, he took time to process the situation. What are the benefits of mastering your feelings and pondering the situation before taking action? Why is this hard to do?
3. Pastor Brian said concerning God's family, "We must care for one another before we can hope to reach our neighbors and the nations for Christ." Why is this true and why is it so important?
4. What do we need to do so we can feel more love and compassion for the ones we are in conflict with?
5. Drawing a conclusion from Matthew 5:18, Pastor Brian made this statement: "We must take the initiative to restore relationships whether we want to or not." Why is this hard? Why is this necessary?

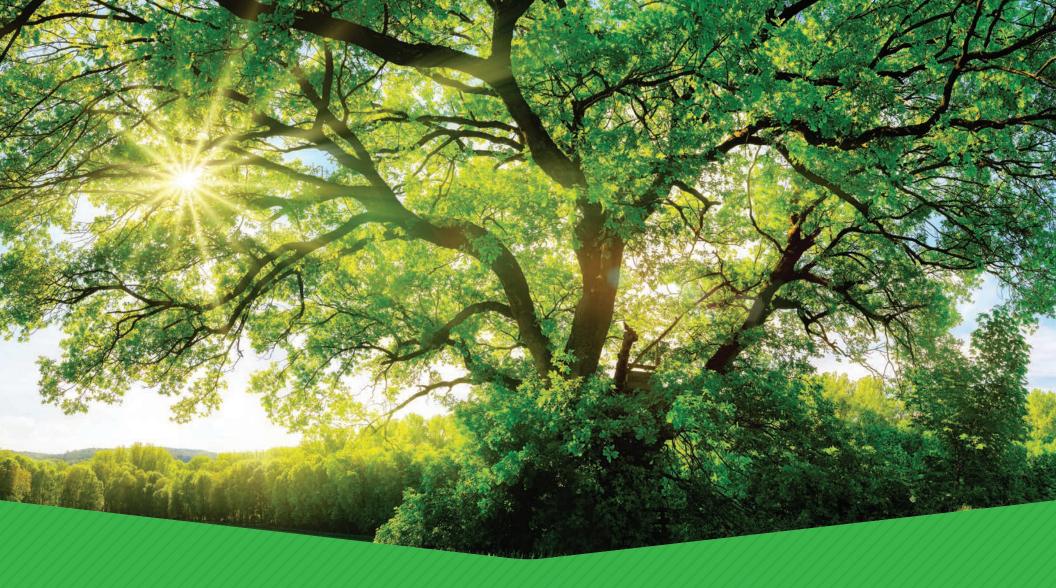
6. Why do people repeatedly ask you to do something when you have refused to do it before?	
7. Why do people gossip and what damage does it create?	
8. Nehemiah took care of his character and trusted God to take care of his reputation. What is the difference between character and reputation and which one is under your contract.	rol?
9. How can seemingly nice people pull you away from God's priorities? What are some ways we can make sure this does not happen? How does Psalm 1 help with this?	
10. What are some things that consistently distract you from God's priorities?	
11. Pastor Brian said, "God has wonderful blessings and much encouragement and joy for us along the way, but we must never cease battling against the world, the flesh and the devil until we get to heaven." Why is this statement true and what stands in the way of not fulfilling it?	1e
Words to Actions 1. When there is strife with someone, what action steps does Ephesians 4:31-32 tell us to take?	
2. What decisions should we make that would help us not let the wrong behaviors of others keep us from doing what we know is right?	
3. Pastor Brian said, "Remember, when God's priorities become our priorities, God's kingdom work will advance." What godly priorities need to be made or reinforced that will hus with the Grow Time Initiative?	ıelp

WEEK SIX: Committed to the Task

Nehemiah 7-8

Opening the Discussion 1. What was the best thing that happened to you this past week?
2. Reflecting on the weekend sermon, what grabbed your attention?
3. What's one thing from the message you hope we talk about as a group?
Growing Deeper 1. Nehemiah realized what is built needs to be guarded. What has God built into your life you need to make sure is protected?
2. This section of Nehemiah lists names of God's covenant community. Why is it important to be a part of such a group and what are some of the benefits? What might be some reasons that we are not concerned that others are a part of this community?
3. Pastor Brian said, "God uses the giving of His people to accomplish His purposes." We can come up with many reasons not to do so. What are some that come to your mind? Name some truths that nullify those reasons.
4. One of the ways to gain understanding of God's Word is to listen attentively as the people did in this passage of Scripture. What gets in the way of this and how do we become consistent with this skill?

5. Three misconceptions about our interaction with the Bible were given. They are: it's too confusing to read, it's too boring to study, and it's impossible to apply. Which do you struggle with and what might you do to overcome this problem?
6. What do you feel is the key (or keys) to understanding the Bible?
7. What are some values for being willing to give time and effort in working through struggles to absorb God's Word?
8. Have you ever had a time in your life where your love for God had slowly burned out? What did you experience during that time in your life? What brought you back to God?
Words to Actions 1. Though the Bible urges us not to live in the past, Ezra urged a short time of building "booths" as a reminder of God's deliverance. Why is it beneficial to remember and share how God has changed your life?
2. Share an illustration of a blessing in your life that is a direct result of allowing God to influence you.
3. The "booths" were also a reminder that life here is temporary. Why is this a healthy precept to remember?
4. With regard to giving toward God's work, "no one can do everything but everyone can do something." Why is this true and how can this be used in our faith, family, and future components of the Grow Time Initiative?





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