



# Plus One

## Do the Work – Trust God

#npplusone

Week 2  
2 of 4

August 8, 2021

**Bottom Line:** Do the work. Trust God.

**Icebreaker:** Who was a favorite boss in your work history? (It could even be babysitting!) What made him/her great?

**Key Verse:** *Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.* Nehemiah 1:11b

Nehemiah, who had the burden and led the work for rebuilding the city, was not a pastor, not a priest, not a prophet, not a contractor. He didn't have any formally appointed position—he was an ordinary guy, servant to the king. All he had was God-ordained passion. He fasted and prayed about the burden he had for the city and people of Jerusalem, and then he made himself available to do something about it. He didn't rashly run to Jerusalem, but his careful and deliberate actions show us how to make a difference. **Seek God passionately and consistently.** For four months he laid his heart before God. Prayer is critical. It keeps the burden fresh and keeps us in an expectant mode. Prayer doesn't force God's hand. It sensitizes us to the movement of God and makes us less likely to miss opportunities God sends our way. Nehemiah prayed for opportunity and favor. He didn't try to manipulate the king. He prayed for God to work. **Define the vision.** A vision is an answer to a problem. Can you say what God wants you to do in a sentence? Clarity is essential. If you can't clearly define it, you can't do it. Nehemiah clearly defined his vision and dared to ask, to make a bold request of God. He didn't ask for anything self-serving, but for something that was at the heart of God's kingdom program. **Make plans.** Nehemiah developed a plan to have the people and resources ready and to have a cleared path. His passion and vision gave him boldness to share and gave the king and queen a desire to help. Assuming you had time and resources, what would you do? If you knew someone was going to come alongside of you and give you the opportunity to pursue your vision, what would you do? Plan for that opportunity. **Inspire and invite people passionately.** Nehemiah kept his vision strong and reached deep within his soul to inspire others around him who he knew were discouraged and even distraught. He acknowledged that the situation wasn't good. The challenge was huge, so Nehemiah shared about the favor of God and how He moved the heart of the king. He actively worked to inspire and invite others to make the vision reality. Consider this: What if that burden, that thing you can't quit thinking about, is actually an assignment from God? The burden you bear often reveals the calling you will embrace. Are you an ordinary person? Do you feel unqualified? Do you feel unprepared? You've been given an assignment that no one else has. Congratulations! You're the perfect kind of person God loves to use!

### THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of Sunday's message to you?

Whom do you know who is an ordinary person who developed a burden and a vision and God used them to make a difference? Share who and how.

There is no way, humanly speaking, that Nehemiah should have been able to see his vision come to pass. But prayer moves things that are impossible. Focus your prayers on what you know must happen in order for your vision to happen: people, resources, influence. Ask for favor with the important people. Reflect and discuss. What does it mean for you? What does it mean for NewPointe?

Changing people's hearts is God's specialty—not your responsibility. Where do you need to apply this understanding?

The king said, "What do you want?" For most people, a lack of caring is not the problem; it's the lack of clarity. Agree or disagree? Why?

### LOOK IT OVER <<<

What injustice, need, or problem do you see in the world that you just can't forget? What is it that you see and think, "Someone should do something about that?" What would you describe as a "burden" on your heart?

Considering the issue you just thought about, where are you in comparison with Nehemiah's journey? Have you allowed it to get under your skin? Have you literally or figuratively cried out to God about it over time? Share.

If you have already cried out to God and embraced the thought that He wants you to do something, where are you in the steps? Seeking God passionately and consistently? Defining your vision? Making plans? Inspiring and inviting people?

Can you define your vision in a sentence? Take a moment and work on a starting sentence and share it.

What is keeping you from believing you're the person God can use?

# NEXT STEPS

1. Cry out to God. Ask Him to help you get clarity on what vision He wants you to embrace.
2. As you discover His calling for you, work to define your vision in one sentence.
3. Seek God consistently and passionately and ask Him to help you make beginning plans.
4. Consider what people you need to help you bring your vision to reality.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Do the work. Trust God.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: 1 Corinthians 1:26-28

Tuesday: James 5:16b

Wednesday: Luke 19:10; Acts 20:24

Thursday: Luke 14:28-30

Friday: Mark 1:16-18

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*