

# The Good Work

## Starting the Work

Big Idea:  
Do The Work. Make a Difference

### 4 Steps to Starting the Work

#### Step 1: Seek God

##### Nehemiah 2:1-4 NLT

Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence. So the king asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled."

Then I was terrified, but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?"

With a prayer to the God of heaven,

#### Step 2: Clarify the Vision

##### Proverbs 29:18 NASB

Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained,  
But happy is one who keeps the Law.

##### Nehemiah 2:5 NLT

I replied, "If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried."

#### Step 3: Make the Plan

##### Nehemiah 2:7-8 NLT

I also said to the king, "If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah. And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself." And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me.

#### Step 4: Motivate Others

##### Nehemiah 2:17-18 NLT

But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.