**The Basics**

Daily Devotional Week 3 | Serving

### **Day 1 God Moves Hearts**

**Read Nehemiah 2:1–8; Proverbs 21:1**

God showed His sovereignty by moving the heart of a pagan king to support Nehemiah’s mission. Even when the world feels far from God, His hand is still directing history.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where have you seen God move in unexpected ways in your life or in the world?
2. What fears or doubts do you need to surrender to God’s sovereignty today?
3. How does knowing “God’s got this” change how you view your circumstances?

**Prayer:** “Lord, thank You that You hold the hearts of kings and the course of nations in Your hand. Help me to trust that nothing is too far gone for You. Strengthen my faith today. Amen.”

**Day 2 – Pray First, Act Second**

**Read Nehemiah 2:4–6; Philippians 4:4–7**

Nehemiah’s success came from a simple but powerful rhythm: pray first, act second. Too often we reverse it, but God invites us to pause and invite Him in before moving forward.

Reflection Questions:

1. When are you most tempted to act before praying?
2. How might you create space to pray before making decisions this week?
3. What’s one area of your life right now where you need to stop and pray first?

**Prayer:** “Father, forgive me for rushing ahead without You. Teach me to pause, seek Your wisdom, and trust Your timing before I act. Amen.”

**Day 3 Everyone Has a Block**

**Read Nehemiah 3:1–12; 1 Corinthians 12:12–20**

The wall wasn’t rebuilt by one person but by everyone taking their place. God gives each of us a “block” to lay—a purpose and calling uniquely ours in His kingdom.

Reflection Questions:

1. What “block” has God entrusted to you in this season (home, work, ministry, relationships)?
2. Where do you struggle with “block envy”—wishing for someone else’s role?
3. How can you celebrate and encourage others in their kingdom work this week?

**Prayer:** “Lord, thank You for giving me a place and purpose in Your kingdom. Help me be faithful with the block You’ve given me and rejoice in the blocks You’ve given others. Amen.”

**Day 4 Opposition Will Come**

**Read Nehemiah 4:1–9; John 16:33**

Even when we’re in God’s will, opposition arises. Nehemiah didn’t give up—he prayed and took practical steps to stay faithful. Following Jesus doesn’t remove challenges, but it does give us courage to endure.

Reflection Questions:

1. What distractions, ridicule, or resistance have you faced in living out your faith?
2. How do you typically respond—defensively, discouraged, or prayerfully?
3. What practical step can you take alongside prayer to keep building faithfully?

**Prayer:** “God, when I face resistance, remind me that You are with me. Give me courage to keep building, and guard me from discouragement. Amen.”

**Day 5 Strength for the Work**

**Read Nehemiah 6:1–16; Isaiah 40:28–31**

Nehemiah prayed, “Now strengthen my hands.” Instead of asking God to remove the difficulty, he asked for endurance to finish well. God makes the impossible possible when we remain faithful.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where in your life right now do you need God to “strengthen your hands”?
2. How does praying for strength instead of escape shift your perspective?
3. What testimony could your faithfulness give to others watching your life?

Prayer: “Father, I ask not to be removed from the challenges before me but to be strengthened in them. Make me faithful, steady, and a witness to Your power. Amen.”