



**Focus** We can be heroes by helping to rebuild broken lives.

**Open** Do you know anyone who is good at repairing just about anything? What kinds of things have they fixed?

**Read** A hero is an ordinary person who does extraordinary things. Unlike our childhood superheroes, heroes of the Bible were ordinary people who said yes to God and changed the course of many lives (Hebrews 11:32–36).

Nehemiah, like many other Jews of his time, was exiled in a foreign city. He served as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes. Ultimately, he rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem and restored the spiritual vitality of the people who lived there. Like Nehemiah, we each have the potential to be heroes today and help rebuild broken lives and our society.

Nehemiah had an outward focus. He saw the trouble and shame of the people in Jerusalem, and felt stirred by God to do something about it (Nehemiah 1:3–4). Like Nehemiah, we know people who are in distress and are living with the consequences of sin (Romans 2:9–11). They don't need judgment; they need a hero who will walk with them and bring the Lord's comfort.

Nehemiah's foundation of faith urged him to take action, but four months passed before he was able to. Often our faith needs to go through a process from being like a small seed to a mature plant. We start out unwilling to take a risk and later come to a place where we are "all in."

Nehemiah completed his heroic task because of his unwavering resolve. He had enemies who wanted to lure him into a compromise (Nehemiah 6:2). The purpose of God in our lives also has enemies that will continually try to distract us or lull us into complacency (1 Peter 5:8).

**Talk**

1. What stood out to you the most about the story of Nehemiah? Why?
2. Do you remember what it was like to be in distress because of brokenness? Were there heroes who helped you rebuild your life in the Lord?
3. Think about what God has called you to do. What are the risks you face in obeying Him? What are the risks of not obeying?
4. What are some of the things that distract us from the purpose of God in our lives? Have someone write down what people share.

**Live**

Where are you in the process? Are you looking for outward focus, are you growing your faith so you can take action, or are you needing unwavering resolve to finish what you started? Get a prayer partner and pray for each other specifically in the challenges you each now face.

**Pray**

Lord, thank You for the heroes of the Bible who give us examples of a life of obedience. We praise You, God, that You take our ordinary, broken lives and make us into Your children. Father, please help us to be rebuilders in the lives of the broken people all around us.