

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a


A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.


Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK





Stephen & Bonnie Burke - Malaysia

1. PRAY - Please pray that the government in Malaysia or Singapore will begin issuing visas so that we can continue with our plan to return to SE Asia in January.
2. PRAISE - We have been able to do some witnessing while we are stuck in the United States! Please pray for our neighbor Shirley to come to know the Lord.
3. PRAY - The government is still restricting the meetings of churches in Ipoh. However, the church has decided to meet despite the government. Please pray they can do so peacefully.

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**finishing
STRONG
IN 2020**



Handout: 11/22/20

Study: 11/29/20

GROWTH GUIDE




Finishing Strong In 2020

With the panic surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, we may wonder what society and the world will look like when this crisis ends. Small businesses fear that they may not be able to recover from minimal sales these past few months, people have been laid off from jobs, and schools have converted from in-person classroom settings to online.

Can we rebuild? What does that look like? How long will it take to recover? We may have asked ourselves these questions as we watch the numbers on the news continue to rise. As the Bible has no specific guidelines on a pandemic like this, how do we look forward to the future?

But does the Bible have examples of people rebuilding after a disaster? Most definitely. As we take a look at a man named Nehemiah, who returned to Israel after a 70-year captivity took place in Babylon, we learn what rebuilding after a horrific event looks like.

Let’s dive into what Nehemiah can teach us about rebuilding after a disaster. Nehemiah may not have faced a pandemic, but when the Babylonians laid siege to Jerusalem, they left Israel destitute and without hope.

Not only did the Babylonians take the best of the best (Daniel 1), leaving only the poor and frail behind, but according to accounts in the Bible and Josephus, the Babylonians set fire to Jerusalem.

This means, when Nehemiah returns, he has to start from square one. They’ve burned the buildings, the stones, the foundations (Nehemiah 4:2), and it looks bleak. To top it all off, Israel’s enemies aren’t too keen about their return, and continually taunt and threaten Nehemiah, to prevent him from completing his project.

In essence, the situation looked bleak – much like our own disaster may now seem. Nevertheless, Nehemiah trusts in the Lord and proceeds with rebuilding Jerusalem. We can learn a great deal from when he chooses to do so.

We’ve been told that the Bible doesn’t answer every problem. It seems to remain silent on issues like social media, dating, and COVID-19, since none of those three existed during the historical timeline of the Old or New Testament. But that doesn’t mean the Bible doesn’t have examples of godly people experiencing disasters, and how they coped and rebuilt from those.

The Bible is described as living and active (Hebrews 4:12). That means that no matter when the writer penned that particular book of the Bible, it can have relevance on our lives. So when we face rebuilding from a disaster, we can turn to Scripture for examples, for encouragement, and most importantly, for healing.

Source: “What Nehemiah Teaches about Rebuilding after a Disaster Like COVID-19” by Hope Bolinger

KEY VERSE

Nehemiah 6:15 (NKJV)

“So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Nehemiah 6:1-15; John 19:30; II Timothy 4:7

Great Finishers In The Bible

1. This week we will study Nehemiah rebuilding the wall. What are some areas of your life where you feel like you might need to rebuild?
2. Today’s readings give us examples of great finishers in the Bible. What can we learn from their examples? Who are some other great finishers in the Bible?

Tuesday: Nehemiah 6:15; I Corinthians 15:57-58; Galatians 6:9

The Key: Finish Strong And Don’t Quit

3. What are some areas of your life where you would like to finish the year strong?
4. What are some reasons why we quit? How can today’s readings help us to finish 2020 strong?

Wednesday: Nehemiah 6:1-4; I Timothy 4:15-16; Psalm 37:12-13

Finish Strong And Don’t Quit In Spite Of Distractions

5. What distractions did Nehemiah face? What distractions are you facing?
6. What was Nehemiah’s response to his distractions? What can you learn from his response to help you finish 2020 strong?

Thursday: Nehemiah 6:5-9; I Peter 2:12-13; Matthew 5:11-12

Finish Strong And Don’t Quit In Spite Of Defamation

7. What did Nehemiah’s opponents say to slander him?
8. What was Nehemiah’s response to the slander?
9. As a believer how should you handle slander? What can we learn from today’s scripture readings to help you finish 2020 strong?

Friday: Nehemiah 6:10-14; Joshua 1:9; Psalm 56:3

Finish Strong And Don’t Quit In Spite Of Danger

10. What danger did Nehemiah face?
11. What was Nehemiah’s response to the danger?
12. How can we be courageous and finish 2020 strong?