



# GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

## BREAKING THE ICE

Are you more of a lake or pool person? Why?

Do you have any summer vacation plans? If so, what are they?



## MAIN CONTENT

In the last week of our Defining Moments series Pastor Chris Nichols spoke about Nehemiah and his defining moments.

We find the story of Nehemiah in the book of Nehemiah. What we know about Nehemiah is he is the cupbearer to the king. This means Nehemiah has a relationship with the king and has conversations with the king quite often.

The first defining moment we see in Nehemiah's story is his brokenness to confess and repent to God about a problem he has heard about (Nehemiah 1:3-4). Nehemiah goes on to pray to God to help his people and rebuild his hometown (Nehemiah 1:4-11).

1. What's the first thing you do when you come upon a problem?

The first thing Nehemiah did was pray. He prayed God-centered prayers. He asked God to help him have favor with the king. If we want the favor of God to create defining moments in our lives, we need to be in alignment with Him. This happens when we get to know Him by spending time with Him in prayer. Our posture of prayer matters. In our prayers, we have the opportunity to ask God for His will in our lives and to show us the things He wants us to do. We refer to these types of prayers as God-centered prayers.



# GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

## MAIN CONTENT

Nehemiah wasn't perfect. Just like us, it took some time for Nehemiah to have courage to approach the King about what he felt called to do. Was it fear that kept Nehemiah from approaching him? We aren't completely sure, but fear likely had something to do with it.

2. Where have you let fear rob you of a defining moment in your life?
3. Currently, is there a fear in your life keeping you from a possible defining moment?

When we let fear keep us from what could be defining moments in our lives, it can rob us of the things God has planned for us. God invites us to take steps of faith to help overcome those fears; to create moments to trust Him and see He is good and His faithfulness endures forever.

Nehemiah overcame his fear and spoke to the King. What we see in Nehemiah's prayer is that he felt a burden for his people and the city. Where you feel a burden for something, you have the opportunity to ask God if there is an assignment to that burden.

4. Have you ever felt a burden for something and acted on it? What happened?

God is looking for our availability to act on the burdens before us.

2 Chronicles 16:9 says, "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."

When we commit to Him, He gives us what we need to accomplish the burdens before us.

5. What is burdening your heart right now?
6. Are you available to let God do something through the burdens you are feeling? How are you making yourself available to God to do something about the burdens He has placed in your heart?





# GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

## MAIN CONTENT

God wants to use us to do things for Him. But God does not call you to pick up all the burdens. When we pray and ask Him, He will reveal those burdens to us that He has for us.

We can learn a lot from the defining moments of the Biblical characters we have studied in the last few weeks. One thing we've learned from Nehemiah this week is, in order to create a defining moment in our lives, we need to be attentive and available to God.

We can't always create a defining moment and don't always know when they are happening but we can be available and try to be ready for them by:

1. Being in prayer with God
  2. Having faith instead of fear
  3. Asking God if He would have an assignment for us if we are feeling a burden.
- 
7. Out of all the defining moments and Biblical characters we have studied in the last few weeks, which has made the most impact on you and why?

Refresher:

1. Peter - name change, growth - He wanted more from Jesus and to do more for Him.
2. Moses - lots of transitions - God was with Moses through them all.
3. Lydia - not all defining moments are just about you. Lydia's defining moments had a massive affect on others.
4. John the Baptist - His courage to go first, prepare the way for Jesus and to boldly proclaim Jesus created defining moments.
5. Nehemiah - He made himself available to create defining moments through prayer, faith and the burdens of his heart.





# GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

## PRAYER

God, we've seen you create defining moments in your people. Will you help us be attentive to the defining moments you want to create in our lives. Will you help us be available to hear from you, walk with you, have courage to follow you and be open to the defining moments you want to create for us and for others? In Jesus name, Amen.

## ACTION STEP

This week, ask God if He has an assignment for you where your heart has been burdened. Share that with a group member. Pray with each other and ask God to reveal the next steps He has for you and that burden.

