

## Building Ministry Through Planning – CHART the Course

### Day 1 Read Nehemiah 2:1-8 “C” is for Continue in Patience

1. There seems to be two views in ministry – those who plan God’s work like a business, and those who don’t plan at all because they fear it might **“quench the spirit”**. On which side would you typically err? What is the balance? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. We are going to describe the Biblical picture of planning in the same way a nautical navigator **“charts his course”**. He marks his route, but yet adjusts for the wind and storms when they come. Give an example of how this might look in ministry. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. In chapter 1, verse 11, we see Nehemiah’s petition to the Lord. In chapter 2 verse 1, we notice that it is now the month Nisan. It has been 4 months since he began praying. Why might the first step in effective planning be to understand **“God’s timing is everything”**? How will this help us **“embrace the wait”**? \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Day 2 Read Nehemiah 2:1-8 “H” is for Have a Goal

1. In verse 5, Nehemiah clearly articulates the goal when the opportunity arises. It was to rebuild the walls and reform the people. What would our goal as a body be in **“rebuilding the walls and reforming the people”**? (Matt 28:19-20, 1 Peter 5:2, 2 Tim 2:2) \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. What do you think would have happened if Nehemiah simply responded with **“I am just going to go to Jerusalem and let the Spirit lead?”**, when questioned by King Artaxerxes? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. What is the natural progression of a church with no ministry goal? Be specific in your description. \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Day 3 Read Nehemiah 2:1-8 "A" is for Align in Prayer

1. Nehemiah has already spent days in prayer, and yet in verse 4 he sends a quick one up again. We call this a **"prayer text"**. What is its purpose? (1 Thess 5:17) \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Pretend you are Nehemiah. Write below what that "prayer text" might have sounded like. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Explain how you can begin to use this tool as you minister both inside and outside the church this week. \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Day 4 Read Nehemiah 2:1-8 "R" is for Research the Details

1. In verses 6-8, we see the amazing amount of research that Nehemiah has done in his planning. All seem to coordinate with potential hurdles. Using your answer in Day 2, Question 1, describe what hurdles might need to be overcome in ministry today. (hint – think about it in terms of culture). \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Nehemiah seems to expect difficulties. Is he just a **"glass is half empty"** guy, or does he understand something intrinsic about ministry? \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Day 5 Read Nehemiah 2:1-8 "T" is for Tweak as Needed

1. Describe the correct understanding of the relationship between our plans and God's providence. (Prov 16:9) \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. What kind of attitude are we called to have when building ministry through planning? (Jas 4:14-15) \_\_\_\_\_  
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