

## 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

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### MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK



Kyle Briar | Romania

Please Pray for the following:

- Romania remains open for our arrival.
- Wisdom and understanding of the required paperwork for the long-term residency.
- Open doors and provision as we finish deputation and still need 15% of our monthly support.
- Homeschooling to go well. We are currently behind schedule due to a late start, travel, several sick days, and irresistible field trips.
- Organization and stamina for the final stretch.
- Praise that the Lord has given us travelling mercies over recent months!

GROWTH

↑  
NEXT LEVEL  
↓

GUIDE

Handout: 01/09/22

Study: 01/16/22

## Next Level Goals

Eastern monarchs were sheltered from anything that might bring them unhappiness (Es. 4:1–2); but on that particular day, Nehemiah could not hide his sorrow. “By sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken” (Prov. 15:13), and Psalm 102 certainly describes Nehemiah’s feelings about Jerusalem. Perhaps each morning, Nehemiah prayed, “Lord, if today is the day I speak to the king about our plans, then open the way for me.”

The king noticed that his cupbearer was carrying a burden. The king asked him, “What is it you want?” What an opportunity for Nehemiah! All the power and wealth of the kingdom were wrapped up in that question!

As he was accustomed to do, Nehemiah sent one of his quick “telegraph prayers” to the Lord (4:4; 5:9; 6:9, 14; 13:14, 22, 29, 31). But keep in mind that these “emergency prayers” were backed up by four months of fasting and praying.

It encourages my prayer life when I contrast the earthly throne of Artaxerxes with the throne of grace in heaven. Nehemiah had to wait for an invitation before he could share his burden with the king, but we can come to the throne of grace at any time with any need (Heb. 4:14–16). Artaxerxes saw the sorrow on Nehemiah’s face, but our Lord sees our hearts and not only knows our sorrows but also feels them with us. People approaching the throne of Persia had to be very careful what they said, lest they anger the king; but God’s people can tell Him whatever burdens them.

Not only had Nehemiah prayed for this opportunity, but he had also planned for it and had his answer ready. During those four months of waiting, he had thought the matter through and knew exactly how he would approach the project. His reply to the king can be summarized in two requests: “Send me!” (Neh. 2:4–6) and “Give me!” (vv. 7–10)

Nehemiah could not leave his post without the approval of the king, nor could he work in Jerusalem without the authority of the king. Pressure from local officials had stopped the work once before (Ezra 4), and Nehemiah didn’t want history to repeat itself. He asked Artaxerxes to appoint him governor of Judah and to give him the authority he needed to rebuild the city walls.

But Nehemiah asked for even more. He needed letters of introduction that would guarantee safe travel and hospitality between Susa and Jerusalem. He also requested letters of authority that would provide the materials needed for the construction of buildings and walls. (Nehemiah had done his research well. He even knew the name of the keeper of the king’s forest!) Artaxerxes gave him what he asked, but it was the good hand of God that made the king so cooperative (see 2:18; and Ezra 7:6, 9, 28).

Source: Bible Exposition Commentary by Warren Wiersbe

## KEY VERSE

Nehemiah 2:5 (NKJV)

*And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Nehemiah 1:20; Psalm 127:1; Ephesians 2:10**

### Introduction

1. Based upon the article on the cover, what would you say Nehemiah's goals were?
2. List some of your goals for your life. How well do they match up with what you think is God's plans for your life?

**Tuesday: Nehemiah 1:3-4, 6,11; James 1:5; Matthew 6:10**

### Pray To God

3. What are some things that Nehemiah prayed about in today's readings?
4. Why is it important to earnestly talk to God about your goals and plans?

**Wednesday: Nehemiah 2:2-5, 19-20; Psalm 34:4-5; 46:1-3**

### Overcome Your Fear

5. What are some fears that you have when it comes to goal setting?
6. Why do you not need to be afraid?

**Thursday: Nehemiah 2:6-12; Proverbs 15:22, 16:3; Luke 14:28**

### Develop Your Plan

7. What can we learn from today's readings about developing plans?
8. What role does God have in your planning? What role do others have in your planning?
9. What are some reasons why plans might fail? What can you do to help your goals come to reality?

**Friday: Nehemiah 2:17-18; 1 Peter 4:8-10; Hebrews 10:24-25**

### Form Your Team

10. List some people who are on "your team" or you would like to be on "your team".
11. In what specific ways does "your team" help you?
12. In what specific ways do you contribute to the lives of those on "your team"?