



Arise and Build
Pastor Joseph Zwanziger 08.17.2025

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Nehemiah 1:3] (NIV)

They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."

[Nehemiah 2:19–20] (ESV)

But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem."

[Nehemiah 3:1-12] (NIV)

Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zakkur son of Imri built next to them. The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs. The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their

nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors. The Jeshanah Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place. Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah—Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of Meronoth—places under the authority of the governor of Trans-Euphrates. Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section; and Hananiah, one of the perfume-makers, made repairs next to that. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section. Adjoining this, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs next to him. Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.

[Nehemiah 3:17-20, 22-24, 27]

Next to him, the repairs were made by the Levites beside him, Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district. Next to him, the repairs were made by their fellow Levites. Next to him, Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section. Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section. The repairs next to him were made by the priests from the surrounding region. Beyond them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs in front of their house; and next to them, Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs beside his house.

1) We Are Created to Serve

[Matthew 20:26–28] (ESV)

It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

“When He moves into our lives, serving becomes part of our DNA. We really can’t ignore it or shove it aside; that would be denying our own hearts, because it is now who we are. Being a Christian who does not love to serve is like having a crawfish boil without the crawfish. What fun is that?”
-Dino Rizzo, “Servolution”

2) We Will Not Progress without Serving

[Romans 12:1] (NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship/service.

[Matthew 23:11] (ESV)

The greatest among you shall be your servant.

3) We Serve because Serving Expands our Lives

[Prov. 11:24-25] (MSG)

The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.

4) We Serve because God can do more through ALL of us than we can do on our own

[Romans 12:4–8] (ESV)

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them

[1 Corinthians 12:14–19] (MSG)

I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. If Foot said, "I'm not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don't belong to this body," would that make it so? If Ear said, "I'm not beautiful like Eye, limpid and expressive; I don't deserve a place on the head," would you want to remove it from the body? If the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it. But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of."

Key Points:

- 1. We are called to serve.**
- 2. We will not progress without serving.**
- 3. We serve because serving expands our lives.**
- 4. We serve because God can do more through ALL of us than we can do on our own.**

Applications for the Week:

Pastor Joseph shared that serving often leads to unexpected blessings, new friendships, purpose, and even life changing encounters. Can you share a time when stepping out to serve led to something good or surprising in your life.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.** In Nehemiah 3, what kinds of people participated in rebuilding the wall?
- 2.** According to Matthew 20:26-28, how did Jesus describe greatness in God's Kingdom?
- 3.** In Romans 12, what does Paul say about the different roles and gifts in the body of Christ?
- 4.** Pastor Joseph mentioned that the wall was rebuilt in just 52 days. What made this possible according to the story?
- 5.** Why do you think Nehemiah emphasized the variety of people who worked on the wall?

- 6.** Serving isn't just about filling a need or doing a job. It's woven into our very nature, as we are created in the image of a God who serves. How does this idea challenge or affirm your understanding of what it means to serve?
- 7.** Pastor Joseph said, we will not progress without serving. Why might serving be necessary for spiritual growth, not just learning or attending church?