

## **The Book of Nehemiah: From Brokenness to Restoration**

We want to continue to live in the fullness of the Gospel, and that means accessing the truths of the Old Testament. The book of Nehemiah presents us with a set of truths that are vital to the health of our church family in 2019. Brokenness is all around us, and we cannot move forward into what God has for us without confronting the brokenness in our individual lives, in our relationships, in our community, and in our church. Through the story of Nehemiah, we will see that Godly restoration is real, not a figment of spiritual imagination. Restoration is available to all, no matter our past or the depth of our brokenness. And brokenness can be restored by Christ in our community and in creation, not just in our personal lives and relationships. The process of moving from brokenness to completion or wholeness is not a human process, but one of recognition of, submission to, and movement towards God's power and mercy, as demonstrated through Christ. Through the teachings of Nehemiah, we deeply want to see everyone at Community Church recognize their areas of brokenness and take a step towards wholeness in God. We want each person to take a step of restoring something or someone to wholeness in their world. And we want to take steps as a church family living out the completion of Christ's resurrection in our broken world.

God's story, demonstrated through Nehemiah, shows us that God's heart is for restoration in all of its forms, and when there is Christ-centered, God-ordained restoration the Kingdom of Heaven is present.

Week 1 (March 10): Understanding Burden and Brokenness (Ch. 1)

Week 2 (March 17): Asking and Planning in Faith (Ch. 2)

Week 3 (March 24): Rebuilding Together (Ch. 3)

Week 4 (March 31): The Work and the Fight (Ch. 4)

Week 5 (April 7—Orphan Care emphasis): Defending the Oppressed (Ch. 5)

Week 6 (April 14): Restoring and Celebrating God's Word and Character (Ch. 8-9)

Week 7 (April 21): Easter: Rejoicing at the Ultimate Restoration (Ch.12; Matthew 28)