

GREAT EXPECTATIONS SERIES
“Preparation”

Nehemiah 1

I prepare by listening.

I prepare by praying and fasting.

I prepare by repenting.

TEXT QUESTIONS TO: 214.470.8543

Small Group Discussion Guide

Go to concorddallas.org to join a small group and learn more.

- **Read Proverbs 3:5-6.** Sometimes it is easier for us to embrace what we can easily comprehend. However, reliance on God involves giving God our trust even when we can't see the outcome or understand his commands. Sometimes we expect great things from our friends, our spouses, our children or grandchildren and from our employers and employees, but do we expect great things from God? Do we expect God to use us in a great way for His glory? Do we expect God to use others? In what ways have I stopped expecting great things from God? Why did I stop dreaming big dreams for myself? How have I stunted my own spiritual growth by dreaming dwarf sized reams? How can we demonstrate more trust in God as we surrender to His plan for our lives? How can we begin to dream bigger dreams? In what ways can I begin to expect greater things from God by leaning not to my own understanding? Starting today, let us prepare for the days ahead as we lead our families, minister to others and expect greater things from God by faith. Here's how I plan to become a better 'builder?" (Please share within your group specific ways.)
- **Read James 1:5-8; James 2:17.** What was the last big thing that you prepared for? Was it your holiday meal, the arrival of guests from out of town, your wedding or birthday party, the planning of your families schedule or your work schedule? Was it a weight loss plan, a marathon, a sought after vacation or a goal to grow spiritually? Please share a time when you had to prepare for something and the things that you had to do to prepare. Now let's discuss hindrances. What type of obstacles got in your way that served as distractions or frustrations? How did you react to the distractions? As we prepare to go to new levels for God, what is needed in our spiritual preparation?
- **Hebrews 11:6.** What is faith to you? Please define or describe faith in your own words. Founding Pastor, Dr. E.K. Bailey once said, "Faith is believing that something is so, in order that it may be so." What does faith and expectations have in common? Why is faith needed in building homes, buildings and lives? What do preparation and faith have in common? How can you begin to be a billboard of faith for other Believers and non-believers? Tell us about a time when you exercised faith and you saw God stretch you and strengthen your witness and your trust in Him.
- **Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Romans 4:1-25. Hebrew 11:1.** In Nehemiah 1, we see that Nehemiah hears about desperate conditions at Jerusalem. What desperate conditions have you heard or observed about the state of our country, of our communities, of the global church, or of your ministry? Do we desire to stay where we are or have we come up with an action plan "to build or rebuild the walls" of our world and lives? In what ways do we easily submit to God in our day to day lives? In what ways do we resist God's plan due to our "tunnel vision" or lack of trust? How can we become better followers and leaders as we trust God's hand in the life of Concord as we are expanding and striving to reach more people? How can we participate in moving from saying, "We grow people" to actually living out the motto of growing people with the Word of God, with faith and with fortitude each day?