

Living the story you want your life to tell THE STARTING POINT

The first key to a *Great Story* is *Intentional Living*. The second key to a *Great Story* is finding my *Why*. The third key to a *Great Story* is <u>*Getting Started*</u>.

HOW TO GET STARTED ON A GREAT STORY

Learning from Nehemiah

1. Start with the <u>END</u> in mind.

Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace! Nehemiah 2:17 (NLT)

2. Start <u>where</u> I am.

Then I said,..."O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me." Nehemiah 1:5 & 11 (NLT)

3. Understand the journey.

So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me...The city officials did not know

I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders—the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration. **Nehemiah 2:11-16 (NLT)**

4. Get like-valued and like-minded people involved.

But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work. **Nehemiah 2:17-18 (NLT)**

Like-valued = to partner up with a person or persons of similar principles, standards of behavior, and judgments as to what is important in life.

Like-minded = to partner up with a person or persons having a like disposition or purpose.

5. Just start with One Thing. (My One Thing)

The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" With a prayer to the God of heaven, I replied, "If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah..." Nehemiah 2:4-5 (NLT)

Going deeper with others: This week we are being challenged to do this part of our study with someone else. Gather a friend or two and discuss the following. Begin with prayer. Last week we were challenged to write down two or three dreams for our life story to tell. Share these with one another. Pastor Jay made the statement "Show me your friends and I will show you your future." Would you agree or disagree and why? Pastor Jay stated, "A strong partnership divides the effort and multiplies the effect". Do you agree or disagree? Who have we gathered around us? Do they help with our story or take away from it? Pastor Jay made one last statement "Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step in our lives". Would you agree or disagree? Here is the smallest step that can make the biggest difference. Have you ever accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? If so, tell those you are with when and what difference it has made. If not, tell them why not.