

Curriculum



SAMPLE

Nehemiah: Learning Leadership

Discern Your Mission

Prepare for the Mission

Sustain the Vision

Protect the Vision

Celebrate the Mission

A sample of the Nehemiah curriculum begins on the following page.



LEARN: Overview

Biblical Business Training (“BBT”) equips people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and empowers leaders in a small-group Bible study setting to apply Biblical principles at work. Our mission is [Faith for Work](#) – and our vision is [Leadership for Life!](#)

To find out more, visit www.B-B-T.org.



Curriculum: The BBT 1-2-3™ Format

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3™* format enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion.



1 Agenda – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



2 Group Leader Guide – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



3 Recap – Encourages community and application



LIVE: Sample Nehemiah

Are you living out God’s mission for your life? Maybe He has placed you right where you are “for such a time as this”. This 5-part study of Nehemiah will help you discover how to faithfully serve Him even through opposition. Topics include:

1. **Discern Your Mission**
2. **Prepare for the Mission**
3. **Sustain the Vision**
4. **Protect the Vision**
5. **Celebrate the Mission**

No book is needed.



LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study

Start leading today! [Learn more.](#)



PRAYERS



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A Calling

A capstone seminar class at a Christian college was discussing the idea of calling. Each of the students had to say what their mission was post-graduation. The class was mostly full of future pastors and Christian school teachers. One by one they shared their missions: to serve students in rural schools, to help students learn how God can change their lives, to revitalize dying congregations. Each had a calling that we easily think of as “Christian Callings”. As the discussion went around the room, it was the turn of the only accounting student. She was a woman from Nigeria, who had lived in four different countries before coming to the US for college. “I want to make a lot of money” she said. This was surprising to the class, who were mostly prepared to expect low salaries for their entire careers. “I want to make a lot of money so that I can give away a lot of money to help people who are trying to make life better for their children”. She certainly had a sense of calling.

A calling, or mission, is deeply important and personal. It is the means by which God works in the world. Every Christian is called by God, whether it is being a missionary in a foreign field or a junior account manager in an advertising firm. Too often, Christians feel they should *do something* for God without waiting for Him to touch their soul with a passion, reveal a specific mission, help them recognize spiritual gifts, or use them right where they are.

Revelation

God had a plan from the beginning to save His people and revealed this to many along the way. People like Joseph, Esther, Nehemiah and Matthew had gifts, passions, positions and faith that allowed them to fulfill God’s calling in their lives. What will you learn from these characters of the Bible that might help you discern your mission for God?



LIVE

Discussion questions: Read the text and scriptures below, and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read [Nehemiah 1:1-4](#). What strikes you about Nehemiah’s reaction to the news about Jerusalem? How and why is this different from reactions you have seen in the workplace?
2. Read [Genesis 47:1-11](#). What was the significance of Joseph’s position?
3. Read [Esther 4:10-17](#). Esther’s passion and position are evident, but what does she do to discern God’s mission?
4. Read [Mark 2:13-17](#). How does Levi represent how reputations and personal choices can define your calling?

Application Question: How will you discern your mission for God?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



PRAYERS

Opening Prayer & Prayer Requests



LEARN

Before you begin, read the AGENDA LEARN introduction together and review the APPLICATION QUESTION from the previous meeting's RECAP.



LIVE

Discussion Questions: Have someone read each Bible verse aloud and then ask the corresponding question. Be sure everyone has enough time to find the Scripture before the verse is read.

- 1) **Read [Nehemiah 1:1-4](#). What strikes you about Nehemiah's reaction to the news about Jerusalem? How and why is this different from reactions you have seen in the workplace?**



When Nehemiah heard about the condition of Jerusalem, he was moved to weeping and humbling himself before the Lord in prayer because of his passion for his people. This kind of passion for the work people do every day is often missing. Your passions and concerns are a gift from God, preparing you for the mission to which God is calling you.



God's people, the Jews, had been taken away into captivity leaving few behind in the Holy Land of Jerusalem. This meant that many generations had never been to the land of their people or even laid eyes on Jerusalem. This included Nehemiah, so it would have been easy for him not to care. However, when he heard the news of Jerusalem's disgrace, he felt God tugging on his heart. While he lived in Susa, he still understood that Jerusalem was their holy city and that no walls meant disgrace and vulnerability to harm and unrest. Notice he didn't immediately take action or begin thinking strategically about a plan and talking to others about his cause. Instead, he humbled himself before God and sought Him first.



Facilitate a brief discussion: Nehemiah's mission began with an internal awareness of a growing passion for a specific place, people and purpose. Are there any concerns God has placed on your heart?

Notes:

- 2) **Read [Genesis 47:1-11](#). What was the significance of Joseph's position?**



God placed Joseph in a position to do something about the famine that was crippling the entire region, including his family in Canaan.



Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers and ended up in prison with two of Pharaoh's servants. Though Joseph suffered greatly, it ultimately led to what God had always intended – the position of Pharaoh's prime minister – that he might be a source of life for many people including his own family. God moved Joseph into a specific position at a specific time to ensure he was able to respond according to His plan.



Facilitate a brief discussion: Too often we feel that our circumstances or the positions we hold are merely the result of our own efforts or good luck. We can sometimes jump into opportunities blindly and end up doing the wrong thing at the wrong time with the wrong people. Instead, our circumstances and current positions in life can help us discern God's calling. How can you use your present position to serve God?

Notes:

3) Read [Esther 4:10-17](#). Esther's passion and position are evident, but what does she do to discern God's mission?



Esther was a queen with considerable personal power and impressive skills in her own right. But she knew that discernment sometimes requires external counsel, so she sought a trusted partner in her uncle Mordecai.



Esther was passionate about the injustice of an evil plot against her people and God placed her in a position to do something about it. But she was inexperienced and discovering God was calling her to something radical and risky that may cost her life. Like Nehemiah, she responds with fasting, prayer and wise counsel.



Facilitate a brief discussion: When God is calling, he usually ensures we have trusted partners who can help us discern not only what God is saying, but also how we might move forward in action. Who are your trusted partners? They may share your same passions or already be doing the work you feel called to do.

Notes:

4) Read [Mark 2:13-17](#). How does Levi represent how reputations and personal choices can define your calling?



Levi was a despised tax collector, yet Jesus said to him, "Follow me" and he chose to do just that. God calls us personally to His mission, and where we come from, who we are, and the choices we've made are an intricate part of that calling.



Levi is another name for Matthew. This is the same Matthew who wrote the Gospel of Matthew. He was a Jewish man but a tax collector for the Roman government and therefore a traitor. His life before he met Christ hardly seems to be presumed worthy for being one of the 12 disciples. Yet, he was well placed to bring Glory to God because he was the last person anyone would expect to follow Jesus. His very personal story helped him fulfill the role to which God called him.



Facilitate a brief discussion if time permits. You might ask, "How can you use your personal story to serve God's great mission?"

Notes:

Application Question: How will you discern your mission for God?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



LEAD

Ask Yourself: What may God be calling me to do at work, at home, at church or in my community by what he is revealing through my passions, partners and current position?



PRAYERS

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LEARN

When discerning a mission or calling, God may cause you to have passion or care strongly about it. Second, God may place you in a position to carry it out – removing barriers, revealing specific skills, and/or placing people before you who have different gifts and experiences and whose holy advice you trust. This entire process must be saturated in prayer.

Scripture references for this study: [Nehemiah 1:1-4](#), [Genesis 47:1-11](#), [Esther 4:10-17](#) & [Mark 2:13-17](#)



LIVE

- Internal Conviction
- External Counsel
- Personal Circumstance

Application Question: How will you discern your mission for God?



LEAD

Ask Yourself: What may God be calling me to do at work, at home, at church or in my community by what he is revealing through my passions, partners and current position?