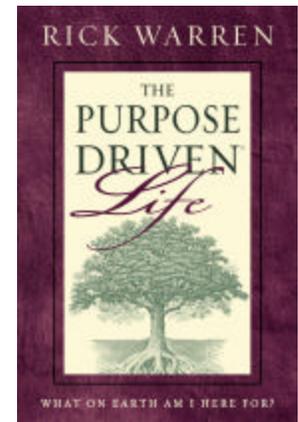




ATTENTION SMALL GROUP MEMBERS

This fall, our church will be participating in 40 Days of Prayer and Purpose, which will run for seven weeks beginning the week of September 28 and ending on November 14. This spiritual journey is designed to answer life's most important question: "What on earth am I here for?" The study will give us an eternal perspective and a clear picture of God's purpose for our lives. We are excited as we envision our entire congregation living in alignment with God's purposes for their lives, and the impact this could have on our church and our community!



- Who:** All Small Group members
- What:** Help sign up Rock Church Members
- Where:** Meet at Ministry Alley fifteen minutes before the service you normally attend.
- When:** The next two Sundays, September 21 and September 28, before and after your usual service.
- How:** Pick up a few sign up sheets, a sticker so you are recognized as a Small Group member, and ask anyone around you if you can help them get signed up for a 40 Days of Prayer and Purpose Small Group. All completed cards should be left at the Small Group table *before* you leave church.
- Why:** Our desire is to see spiritual transformation at The Rock. This study is not meant to be done alone, and we need to help the 3,000 plus people of our family get into a Small Group.

For the week of: **September 14, 2003**

Small Group Training Update: ALL Small Group Facilitators need to be at our mandatory training on Sunday, September 28 at 12:30 in the Sanctuary. This is for all current leaders, as well as all upcoming "40 Day" leaders. R.S.V.P. to melissak@therocksandiego.org or (858) 455-7625 x242.

TITLE: Burden of Proof - Part 1, Rise Up and Build

MEMORY VERSE: *So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.* Nehemiah 1:4

SERMON REFLECTIONS

- 1) In the sermon, we learned that Nehemiah was a leader with vision. Please define the word leader (Nehemiah 3). Please define the word vision (Genesis 15:1, Isaiah 1:1, Daniel 1:17, Acts 2:17). How would you explain vision to a non-believer? The significance of a vision is not the size of the vision, but that it is from God. Has God ever given you a vision?
- 2) In the sermon, we learned about Nehemiah's burden birthing a powerful prayer life...why? Define the word burden. What significance does Prayer have with burden? (Acts 10:2-4, Acts 11:5)?
- 3) What is np3?

CLOSER WALK

Because of the importance of the next few months, we are going to be digging deeper into Nehemiah each week.

Nehemiah 1

A quick history lesson:

The Jews survived a narrow escape when God intervened during Isaiah's day and slew 185,000 Assyrians. This gave them a brief respite. However, in 586 BC, Neb destroyed Jerusalem, leveling it and burning it to the ground – he also transported the citizens that were left to Babylon. After 70 years (as God had said it would be), Cyrus, the king of the Medes and Persians, who Isaiah spoke of 150 years before he was born, was impressed when Daniel showed him the scroll of Isaiah where he was alluded to and allowed those who wanted to return to do so. However, only about 50,000 left to go back – the others had "blended in." Under the leadership of Ezra and Zerubbabel, this group was able to rebuild the temple but not the wall, and the wall was strategic for autonomy and protection. This brings us to the time of Nehemiah.

Have your Small Group read verse by verse through Nehemiah 1 this week and reflect on the following questions.

1. How was Nehemiah similar to Joseph, Esther, and Daniel?
2. Look up the meaning of the name Nehemiah – how does that relate to this chapter?
3. How was Nehemiah DETERMINED? In this chapter were his action steps?
4. When God puts a burden on your heart what should you do? What did Nehemiah do?
5. Have you ever had a burden for anything? What do you have a burden for today?
6. Read the following passages so you can understand the depth of the Jews love for Jerusalem and why Nehemiah's heart was broken when he received the news concerning its current condition. Psalm 48, 79, 84, 87.
7. Nehemiah was a man of prayer. In Chapter 1 we have the first of 12 prayers. Be sure as you read through this book to highlight them we you come across them.
8. In verses 6-9, what is the greater part of Nehemiah's prayer devoted to? Also note for Nehemiah it was *we*, not they. What value is this for a leader?
9. What was Nehemiah's position?
10. Why did God allow his people to be taken captive?

Accept the CHALLENGE – get a journal and write out the book of Nehemiah!

**"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
1 Thessalonians 5:11**