



**RIVERSIDE**  
CHURCH



# NOW WHAT?

*“IT'S THE START THAT  
STOPS US” - Part 2*

April 14, 2024 ● Pastor Tom Lundeen

**MYRC.CHURCH**



# "IT'S THE START THAT STOPS US" - PART 2

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All of us come to important moments in our lives where we aren't sure what we should do...these are *Now What?* moments, and depending on what we do or don't do, these times will have significant \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives and futures.

1. By Giving Us a Divine Burden (note [Nehemiah 1:1-3](#))
2. By Sincere Prayer ([Nehemiah 1:5-11](#))
3. By Taking Us in a New Direction ([Nehemiah 1:11b](#))

God also guides us:

4. By Starting \_\_\_\_\_

Note [Zechariah 4:10a](#)

Before Nehemiah ever saw the \_\_\_\_\_ around Jerusalem built, look at the small steps he took:

- First he prayed \_\_\_\_\_ prayers.
- Then he approached King Artaxerxes with his request.
- Then he had to plan to take an \_\_\_\_\_-mile journey (probably by donkey).
- Then he waited \_\_\_\_ days after arriving in Jerusalem.
- Then he inspected the walls alone at night.
- Then he gathered the leaders and officials and \_\_\_\_\_ them to this vision (note [Nehemiah 2:17-18](#)).
- Then someone had to \_\_\_\_\_ the first stone.
- Then everyone had to work hard, including being prepared to \_\_\_\_\_...(note [Nehemiah 4:16-18](#)).

## 5. By Giving Us Faith to \_\_\_\_\_

You and I don't have to know all the \_\_\_\_\_.  
And most of the time, God won't give you and me the \_\_\_\_\_.

You don't have to have the faith to \_\_\_\_\_.  
You just need the faith to \_\_\_\_\_.  
And then you trust God to take the next step, even when there are \_\_\_\_\_, problems, and challenges (note [Nehemiah 2:19-20a](#)).

Just don't let the start \_\_\_\_\_ you.  
You never \_\_\_\_\_ something you don't start.  
It's okay to have \_\_\_\_\_ dreams, but start small.

### So now what?

- We vastly \_\_\_\_\_ what God will do for us in the short run, and we vastly \_\_\_\_\_ what God can do through a lifetime of faithfulness.
- Start doing what's necessary, then what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the \_\_\_\_\_. (St. Francis of Assisi)
- Note [1 Corinthians 15:58](#) and [Galatians 6:9](#)
- Some of us need to start at the \_\_\_\_\_.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital\* or hard copy). \*[MYRC.LINK/CONNECT](#) or text **riverside** to **94000**



**SMALL GROUP**  
guide on the back

# SG

Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*Do you like board games or card games?  
Name a favorite and why.*

*(Icebreaker courtesy of Sauk Rapids' Nash Small Group)*

1. It's been a week. When Pastor Tom wrapped up last week's message he asked you, "What burden do you sense God is putting on your heart?" Share your answer with the group and what steps you have taken this week.
2. Read [Zechariah 4:10a](#), [Nehemiah 2:17-18](#), [4:16-18](#). Pastor Tom told us that "God also guides us by starting small." Why was it important for Nehemiah (and us) to start small when responding to God's guidance?
3. "God also guides us by giving us faith to start. You don't have to have the faith to finish. You just need faith to start. And then you trust God to take the next step, even when there are obstacles, problems, and challenges." See [Nehemiah 2:19-20a](#). Describe a time God gave you the faith to start something. When challenges arose, how did your faith help you keep moving forward?
4. Pastor Tom reminded us, "Just don't let the start stop you. You never finish something you don't start. It's okay to have big dreams, but start small." When have you let the "start stop you" and is there something you now need to revisit? Explain.
5. Read St. Francis of Assisi's quote at the bottom of the Message Notes, as well as [1 Corinthians 15:58](#) and [Galatians 6:9](#). What are you facing that seems impossible or makes you want to give up? What small steps can you take this week to get started and how could your group support you in them?

*Day One:* [John 4](#); [Psalm 72](#)

*Day Four:* [2 Thessalonians 2](#); [Jeremiah 6](#)

*Day Two:* [Exodus 22](#); [Proverbs 10](#)

*Day Five:* [Job 10](#); [Acts 16](#)

*Day Three:* [Hebrews 7](#); [1 Samuel 22](#)

## PERSONAL GUIDE

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*

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1. By Giving Us a Divine Burden (note [Nehemiah 1:1-3](#))
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God also guides us:

## 4. By Starting Small

Note [Zechariah 4:10a](#)

Before Nehemiah ever saw the wall around Jerusalem built, look at the small steps he took:

- First he prayed heartfelt prayers.
- Then he approached King Artaxerxes with his request.
- Then he had to plan to take an 850-mile journey (probably by donkey).
- Then he waited 3 days after arriving in Jerusalem.
- Then he inspected the walls alone at night.
- Then he gathered the leaders and officials and rallied them to this vision (note [Nehemiah 2:17-18](#)).
- Then someone had to lay the first stone.
- Then everyone had to work hard, including being prepared to fight...(note [Nehemiah 4:16-18](#)).

## 5. By Giving Us Faith to Start

You and I don't have to know all the details.

And most of the time, God won't give you and me the details.

You don't have to have the faith to finish.

You just need the faith to start.

And then you trust God to take the next step, even when there are obstacles, problems, and challenges (note [Nehemiah 2:19-20a](#)).

Just don't let the start stop you.

You never finish something you don't start.

It's okay to have big dreams, but start small.

### So now what?

- We vastly overestimate what God will do for us in the short run, and we vastly underestimate what God can do through a lifetime of faithfulness.
- Start doing what's necessary, then what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible. (St. Francis of Assisi)
- Note [1 Corinthians 15:58](#) and [Galatians 6:9](#)
- Some of us need to start at the start.

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