

## Called Take a Step

**God majors in minor people (Nehemiah 1:3-5).** God calls *ordinary* people to make an *extraordinary* difference for Him. His power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). What God calls us into is usually that thing or person that breaks our hearts, that situation that stirs something in us to purposefully help or to right a wrong. When we sense that, the first step is to feel their pain, to mourn, to feel the weight of what is happening. And then, like Nehemiah, we earnestly pray, asking God for the right perspective. Once we have felt their pain and prayed, God calls us to take a step of action.

### GETTING STARTED

Often, we have an NFL draft view of the Kingdom of God, that He is a coach looking for the best talent on the team and that it is our *abilities* that determine our value to the mission of Jesus on earth. Where does this perspective come from, and why is it wrong? What are the most common reasons people dismiss themselves from stepping more into their calling or destiny?

### GO DEEPER

1. According to Nehemiah 1:4, how did Nehemiah respond – and for how long – to the news that the wall of Jerusalem was broken down and its gates destroyed by fire? What does it look like to lament as part of our Christian faith on behalf of others, and how do we mourn well?
2. In Nehemiah 1:4, the cupbearer also fasted and prayed before the God of heaven when he heard the news concerning Jerusalem. What do you think Nehemiah was praying, and what or how should we pray when someone's situation breaks our heart?
3. After mourning, fasting, and praying, Nehemiah takes a step of action (Nehemiah 1:4-5). What keeps followers of Jesus paralyzed from taking steps of action, even when we feel the weight of a person's situation and want to make a difference? What might be the cost of taking action?

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Who or what breaks your heart right now? What do you believe God is stirring in you concerning the situation? How have you lamented and prayed?
2. Do you tend to disqualify yourself from being a difference-maker? If so, why do you think you disqualify or dismiss yourself? What is at the root of that belief, and what is true about your identity in Jesus?
3. What is your next step in your calling or destiny? What action does God want you to step into, even if it is possibly risky or costly?

### PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group, in an attitude and atmosphere of prayer, to ask God to break your hearts for what breaks His. Ask Him to speak clearly to you, to stir something in you that is important to Him. As you pray, affirm out loud that God uses ordinary people for extraordinary purposes. Ask God to show you a first step (or a next step) of action.