

# RECHARGE

DISCIPLINES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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TYPE 1-B

FOOTING STEP DETAIL

# REBUILD

restoring the broken



ELEVATION



PLAN

TYPICAL LAYOUT EXAMPLE

TYPE 2-B

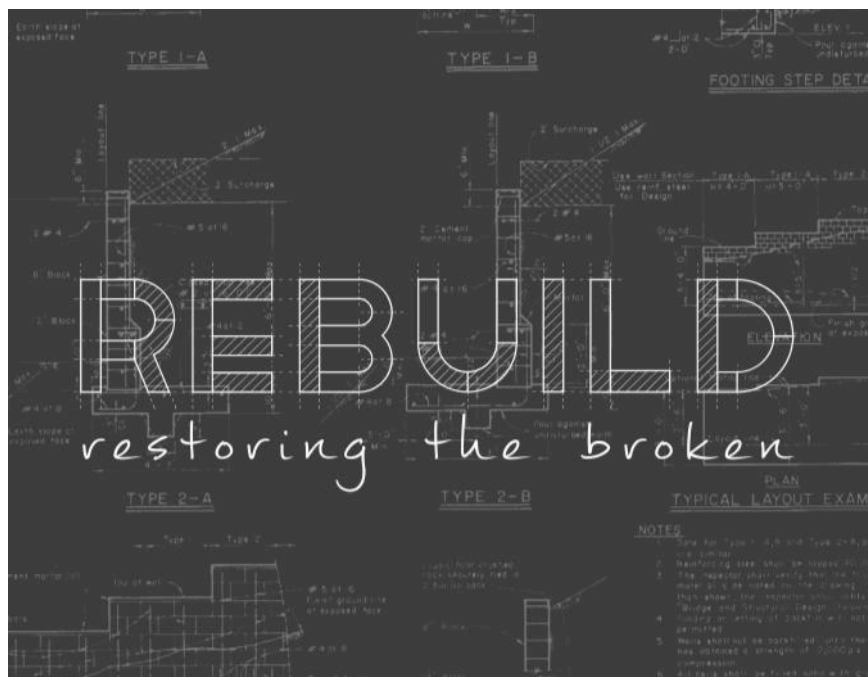
## NOTES

1. Reinforcing steel shall be placed as shown.
2. Reinforcing steel shall be placed as shown.
3. The inspector shall verify that the reinforcing steel is placed as shown and that the concrete is placed as shown.
4. The inspector shall verify that the concrete is placed as shown and that the reinforcing steel is placed as shown.



# RECHARGE

DISCIPLINES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH



a nine week study in  
Nehemiah 1-7

Temple  
Baptist  
Church



TEMPLEROGERS.ORG

This book belongs to:



# Introduction

**“Open my eyes so that  
I will observe amazing things  
from your instruction.”**

Psalm 119:18 (ISV)

We want to thank you for choosing to invest in your spiritual development! It is God’s desire for you to grow to be more like His Son each and every day. This booklet will help guide you in your daily walk with God.

## **NEW SERMON SERIES**

Our new sermon series—“REBUILD: Restoring the Broken”— will focus on the first half of the Book of Nehemiah. We’ll spend nine weeks studying this section of Scripture. In the chronology of the Old Testament, the Book of Nehemiah records some of the last events to be included in the Old Testament canon.

## **BRIEF HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE**

Abraham’s descendants grew in number and became a mighty nation. Threatened by their strength, the king of Egypt enslaved them, but they were miraculously delivered from their bondage. After wandering in the desert for 40 years, the Jews entered the Land of Promise where they were governed by a series of judges.

Israel wanted an earthly king like their surrounding nations, so God anointed Saul, then David, then Solomon. When Solomon

passed, the nation's allegiance tore in two which led to a division between the northern ten tribes and the two southern tribes. The northern tribes became known as Israel, and the southern tribes as Judah.

Israel and Judah experienced punishment for disobeying God. The northern tribes of Israel were overthrown by the Assyrians in 721 BC and never returned from their captivity. About 115 years later, the southern kingdom of Judah was captured by the Babylonian Empire (606 BC). They were taken to Babylon in three waves: in 606 BC including Daniel, in 597 BC including Ezekiel, and in 586 BC including Zedekiah.

Deuteronomy 30:1-3 says, "And when all these things come upon you, the **blessing** and the **curse**, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, and **return to the Lord** your God, you and your children, and **obey his voice** in all that I command you today, with *all your heart* and *with all your soul*, **then the Lord your God will** restore your fortunes and **have mercy on you**, and **he will gather you again** from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you."

God kept His promise to those captured by the Babylonians. He had mercy on them and gathered them back again. Similar to their departure, they returned from captivity in three stages under three leaders: in 536 BC by Zerubbabel, in 455 BC by Ezra, and in 445 BC by Nehemiah.

## FALL 2021 RECHARGE STUDIES

The focus of our sermon series will be on the return of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the wall surrounding the city of Jerusalem. This *Recharge* study will follow along with our sermon series while diving into some of the other books written during this time period. Hopefully this will provide you with the needed context to be able to fully understand the Book of Nehemiah.

The book you hold in your hand has been designed to be your companion throughout this study. Each week contains:

- A page to take notes from each Sunday's sermons,
- A page for notes/prayer needs from your Community Group,
- And follow-up study materials for four days each week.

These study materials are not scheduled for any particular day of the week. We have reduced the studies from three Bible studies and three SOAP Journals to only two of each. We are doing it this way so that you will hopefully be able to get caught up without any major difficulty if you miss a day of study. If you would like additional study materials at any point, just let us know and we will get them to you.

## **SOAP JOURNALING**

Many of you are already familiar with the spiritual discipline of SOAP Journaling. For those who are not, we have provided some simple instructions for SOAPing on the next page. Please don't be intimidated by "the blank page." The goal of SOAPing is to encourage you to think more deeply about the Scripture. As you read the daily Bible reading at the top of each SOAP Journal page, ask God to open your eyes to see the truth that He wants you to focus on that day, and then make up your mind to obey whatever it is He is teaching you!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Wade or Pastor John. Our prayer is that these studies will provide you with a daily recharge for your life!

Pastor Wade Allen

# Instructions for SOAP Journaling

As we read God's Word, we begin to see how God responds to things. Doing **daily devotions** re-patterns the way we think and transforms the spirit of the mind. Then, when we face similar situations as Jesus did, we begin to respond in the same way.

**Journaling is an excellent way to both record and process what God has spoken to us.** It's also a useful tool to use at a later time to reflect on and review some of the "gems" that you have received. Without writing these down, you may forget those blessings and some very important lessons!

**S for Scripture**  
Open your Bible to today's reading on your Bible Reading Plan. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

**O for Observation**  
What is God saying in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal the truth of this verse to you. Now write a one or two sentence observation about that verse. What does the verse say? What does it mean?

**A for Application**  
Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or correction for a particular area of your life. Now write how this Scripture can apply to you today.

**P for Prayer**  
This can be as simple as asking God to help you apply this Scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say!

Don't forget to give your journal entry a title and put it in the Table of Contents. This will help you find it when you want to read it again.





**Week 1**

**September 12, 2021**

**Sermon Title:**

**Sermon Text: Deuteronomy 30:1-3**

**Speaker:**

**Sermon Notes:**

**Community Group:**

**Location:**

**Date:**

## Week 1 Day 1

### Bible Reading: Jeremiah 25:1-14



### Questions for Reflection:

Using your cell phone, scan the QR code above to watch a short video about the background and setting of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Why did God send the Babylonians to capture the Israelites?  
(Jeremiah 25:1-11)

What kingdom conquered the Babylonian Empire around 539 BC?  
What was the name of their king?

(You may need to look at the introductory notes of Ezra & Nehemiah in your study Bible.)

How does this fulfill the prophecy “by the mouth of Jeremiah”?  
(Jeremiah 25:12-14)

## Week 1 Day 2

**Bible Reading: Ezra 1:1—2:42**

**SOAP Journal:**

**Title:**

**Date:**

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## Week 1 Day 3

### Bible Reading: Ezra 1:1-11

#### Questions for Reflection:

Spend some time today reading the introductory notes in your study Bible at the beginning of both Ezra and Nehemiah. What did you learn about the setting and background for these books?

Why would King Cyrus issue a decree that the Israelites were free to return home and rebuild the broken-down temple? How were their beliefs about culture and religion different from the Babylonians?

## Week 1 Day 4

**Bible Reading: Ezra 2:43—3:13**

**SOAP Journal:**

**Title:**

**Date:**

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**Week 2**

**September 19, 2021**

**Sermon Title: Rebuilding Begins with Realignment**

**Sermon Text: Nehemiah 1:1-11**

**Speaker:**

**Sermon Notes:**



**Community Group:**

**Location:**

**Date:**

## Week 2 Day 1

### Bible Reading: Nehemiah 1:1-11

#### Questions for Reflection:

What did Nehemiah do when he heard about the situation the people were facing in Jerusalem? How is this an example to us in the way we should respond to the needs of God's people?

Nehemiah's prayer in verses 5-11 provides us with a model for how we can pray. What are some of the things he did in his prayer to God?

v. 5

vv. 6-7

vv. 8-9

v. 11

## Week 2 Day 2

### Bible Reading: Haggai 1

#### SOAP Journal:

Title:

Date:

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## Week 2 Day 3

**Bible Reading: Nehemiah 1:5-11; 2:4**

### Questions for Reflection:

How do your prayers compare with Nehemiah's prayers?

In Nehemiah 2:4 while having a conversation with the king, Nehemiah lifted up a quick prayer to God before he replied to the king. Was this prayer effective? How do we know?

What impact did his previous, extended time of prayer have on the effectiveness of this short, quick prayer?

What changes will you make in your prayer life this week to follow Nehemiah's example?

## Week 2 Day 4

### Bible Reading: Haggai 2

#### SOAP Journal:

Title:

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**Week 3**

**September 26, 2021**

**Sermon Title: Rebuilding Requires Preparation**

**Sermon Text: Nehemiah 2:1-8**

**Speaker:**

**Sermon Notes:**

**Community Group:**

**Location:**

**Date:**

### Bible Reading: Proverbs 16

#### Questions for Reflection:

Chuck Swindoll once said, “Faith is not a synonym for disorder or a substitute for careful planning.” What do you think about this? Is this challenging to you or does it give you affirmation?

Is there an area of your life—or something that God is calling you to do—that needs careful planning? How will you go about doing this?

“Nehemiah had not only prayed and sought God’s help but he used all of the human resources that were available—including his intellectual skills, his human experiences, his accumulated wisdom, his role and position, and the people with whom he came in contact.” (Gene Getz)  
What resources do you have that could be used by God?



## Week 3 Day 2

**Bible Reading: Ezra 4**

**SOAP Journal:**

**Title:**

**Date:**

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### Bible Reading: Isaiah 32:1-8

#### Questions for Reflection:

Isaiah 32:8 is inscribed on the front cover of my journal. It says (NASB), “But the noble man devises noble plans; And by noble plans he stands.” Read Isaiah 32:5-8. How would you contrast the noble and the foolish man? Or the noble man and the scoundrel?

What do you understand Isaiah 32:8 to mean? How should you apply this truth to your personal life?

As you approach the next big project in your life, how can you follow Nehemiah’s example of preparation? What will you do?

## Week 3 Day 4

**Bible Reading: Ezra 5**

**SOAP Journal:**

**Title:**

**Date:**

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**Week 4**

**October 3, 2021**

**Sermon Title: Rebuilding Requires Vision**

**Sermon Text: Nehemiah 2:9-20**

**Speaker:**

**Sermon Notes:**

**Community Group:**

**Location:**

**Date:**

### Bible Reading: Philippians 3:1-21

#### Questions for Reflection:

Before we are able to craft a new vision for our life and spiritual growth, it is important to have an accurate assessment of the situation that we are facing. Take a few moments to complete this spiritual fitness checkup.

On a **scale of 1 (least) to 5 (best)**, estimate how you are doing in the five areas of growth in your Christian life. Evaluate how you are doing right now—not how you were doing last week or hope to be doing tomorrow.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Your daily walk with Christ—abiding in Him.  
(Bible reading, prayer, personal and corporate worship)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your deeper time in the Bible—growing deep in the Word.  
(Bible study, digging deep for understanding, obedience)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your relationships with other Christians—accountability.  
(Regular accountability, encouragement, praying for others)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your service to God—discovering and using spiritual gifts.  
(What gifts do you have? How are you exercising your gifts?)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your ultimate purpose—fulfilling the Great Commission.  
(Making disciples by investing your life in them)

Which of these areas is your greatest weakness?

Which of these areas is your greatest strength?

What will you do to strengthen the areas that are weak?

## Week 4 Day 2

**Bible Reading: Ezra 6**

**SOAP Journal:**

**Title:**

**Date:**

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### Bible Reading: Nehemiah 2:1-20

#### Questions for Reflection:

When you make a decision to be more committed to Christ and your own spiritual growth, opposition is almost assured to follow. Who opposed Nehemiah's plan to help the people of Jerusalem? Why?

Of what did Nehemiah's adversaries accuse him? What have we learned so far that proves this is not true?

How can you demonstrate this same kind of confidence in God and His calling upon your life in the face of opposition?



## Week 4 Day 4

**Bible Reading: Ezra 7**

**SOAP Journal:**

**Title:**

**Date:**

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**Week 5**

**October 10, 2021**

**Sermon Title: Rebuilding Requires Teamwork**

**Sermon Text: Nehemiah 3:1-32**

**Speaker:**

**Sermon Notes:**

**Community Group:**

**Location:**

**Date:**

### Bible Reading: Galatians 5:13—6:10

#### Questions for Reflection:

In a sermon, Dr. Gary Kinnaman once said:

*“Some people live the Christian life as if it were a chess game they can play solo. They buy the chess board and a stack of books. Then they sit at home alone, studying, pondering, moving their pawns. But they never engage in a real match. If your entire Christian experience consists of you and God, you’re out of balance. And, what’s worse, you are deceiving yourself because you think you’re serving and pleasing God; but you’re really not.”*

What do you think of what Dr. Kinnaman said here?

In Galatians 5, Paul addresses the fruit of Spirit and the desires of the flesh. In chapter 6, he describes how believers should interact with one another. How does this interaction relate to what is described in the quote above by Gary Kinnaman?

Why do we need one another in the Christian walk?

## Week 5 Day 2

**Bible Reading: Ezra 8**

**SOAP Journal:**

**Title:**

**Date:**

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### Bible Reading: Nehemiah 3:1-32

#### Questions for Reflection:

Pastor Wade spoke on the need for teamwork in ministry this past Sunday. As you look again at Nehemiah 3, what sticks out to you about the description of the rebuilding of the wall? Why did you notice this?

What keeps you from asking for help when you're working on a project or in a ministry for our church or another group? Feel free to list them!

What steps can you take this week to utilize more teamwork in our church or your community group?

How can you be a better team member in the work of the ministry here in our church?

## Week 5 Day 4

**Bible Reading: Ezra 9-10**

**SOAP Journal:**

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**Date:**

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**Week 6**

**October 17, 2021**

**Sermon Title: Rebuilding Invites Opposition**

**Sermon Text: Nehemiah 4:1-22**

**Speaker:**

**Sermon Notes:**



**Community Group:**

**Location:**

**Date:**

## Week 6 Day 1

**Bible Reading: Psalm 69:1-18, 29-33**



### Questions for Reflection:

Using your cell phone, scan the QR code above to watch a short video about understanding poetic literature in the Bible. After watching this video, read Psalm 69:1-18. What is David actually describing here when he refers to “deep mire” and “deep waters”?

Have you ever felt like you were being swallowed up by those who were seeking to destroy you? Explain.

An attitude of praise and thanksgiving are essential when you are dealing with difficult people and circumstances (c.f. Psalm 69:29-34; James 1:2-4). For what—or for whom—should you give thanks to God even though they may be a source of affliction and pain in your life?

*“A proper view of God puts all difficulties in right perspective.” (J. Karl Laney)*

## Week 6 Day 2

### Bible Reading: Nehemiah 1

#### SOAP Journal:

Title:

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## Week 6 Day 3

### Bible Reading: Psalm 69:1-18

#### Questions for Reflection:

In verses 5-8, David admits his transgressions and prays for others to not be affected because of them. For whom was he concerned?

What was David's attitude in verses 9-12? Why is this attitude important when dealing with people who oppose you?

Spend a few moments praying through Psalm 69:13-18.

[I would encourage you to write your prayer in this space. Remember that when you pray Scripture, you are rephrasing the words of Scripture as a pray that is specific for your personal life.]

## Week 6 Day 4

### Bible Reading: Nehemiah 2

#### SOAP Journal:

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**Week 7**

**October 24, 2021**

**Sermon Title: Rebuilding Cultivates Compassion**

**Sermon Text: Nehemiah 5:1-19**

**Speaker:**

**Sermon Notes:**

**Community Group:**

**Location:**

**Date:**

## Week 7 Day 1

### Bible Reading: Luke 10:25-37

#### Questions for Reflection:

The road between Jerusalem and Jericho was a dangerous one where robbers would pose as wounded people. How does that information change the way you might approach the situation had you been the one passing by the wounded man that day?

If the priest and the Levite were taking the more direct but dangerous road because they were in a rush to fulfill their religious duties somewhere, were they justified in their decision to pass by this man? Why?

Is being in a hurry a valid reason to not stop and help someone?

Given the divisions between Jews and Samaritans (see John 4), what's unusual about the plot twist at the end of this parable?

With whom do you identify most in this story? Why?



## Week 7 Day 2

### Bible Reading: Nehemiah 3

#### SOAP Journal:

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## Week 7 Day 3

### Bible Reading: Ruth 1-4

#### Questions for Reflection:

What are some tangible ways that you can show compassion to people this week? To whom will you be a Good Samaritan this week?

Choose one way from your list above. Write an action plan for doing it in the space below. What will you do? When will you do it?

If you've ever heard someone called "ruthless," it means that person has no compassion. The biblical Ruth is a beautiful example of tenderness, caring and biblical compassion.

## Week 7 Day 4

### Bible Reading: Nehemiah 4

#### SOAP Journal:

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**Week 8**

**October 31, 2021**

**Sermon Title: Rebuilding Requires Discernment**

**Sermon Text: Nehemiah 6:1-14**

**Speaker:**

**Sermon Notes:**

**Community Group:**

**Location:**

**Date:**

### Bible Reading: Nehemiah 6:1-14

#### Questions for Reflection:

In the message this past Sunday morning, we saw that Nehemiah's enemies were once again trying to impede the progress on the wall. What strategy did they use this time? What did Nehemiah realize about their scheme according to verse 9?

Nehemiah was encouraged by Shemaiah to go into the temple to hide from his enemies who were trying to kill him. Read Nehemiah 6:11-13. How did Nehemiah respond? Why?

Have you ever received advice from a so-called "fellow Christian" that you came to realize was not godly advice? How did you respond? How did it make you feel to know that someone would do something like this?

## Week 8 Day 2

### Bible Reading: Nehemiah 5

#### SOAP Journal:

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### Bible Reading: 1 John 3:1—4:6

#### Questions for Reflection:

In 1 John 3:7-10, the Bible lays out guidelines for determining whether or not an individual is truly a child of God. What are these guidelines?

According to 1 John 4:1, we are to examine individuals—their life and teaching—to determine whether they are from God or not from God. Why is it important to make this determination?

Read Matthew 7:1-5 and 15-20. In our modern-day culture, “judging” someone is considered the most egregious misconduct a person can do. How do we reconcile the instruction to not judge (v. 1) and the warning to watch out for the “wolves in sheep’s clothing”?



## Week 8 Day 4

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 6:1—7:4

### SOAP Journal:

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**Week 9**

**November 7, 2021**

**Sermon Title: Rebuilding Requires the Power of God**

**Sermon Text: Nehemiah 6:15—7:4**

**Speaker:**

**Sermon Notes:**

**Community Group:**

**Location:**

**Date:**

### Bible Reading: Nehemiah 6:15—7:4

#### Questions for Reflection:

According to Nehemiah 6:15, how long did it take to complete the wall around Jerusalem?

You might think that there were no complications that slowed them down since they were able to complete such a tremendous work in less than two months. Read Nehemiah 4:1-15. What did Nehemiah do when opposition came and the work was stalled? What was the result?

What did the nations around Jerusalem think about the completion of the wall? (Nehemiah 6:16)

What is something that you have experienced in your life that was an obvious work of God? What effect did this have on the level of trust you have in God?

## Week 9 Day 2

**Bible Reading: Malachi 1-2**

**SOAP Journal:**

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### Bible Reading: Ephesians 3:1-21

#### Questions for Reflection:

In the Book of Ephesians, Paul is writing to the believers in Ephesus and their pastor, Timothy, to encourage them. Paul started this church on his second journey and spent three years here on his third journey. Now he is writing to them from prison in Rome. How did Paul describe the work of God in today's Bible reading? (vv. 20-21)

In Ephesians 3:14-21, Paul shares with the Ephesians what he has been praying for them and for their church. In the space below, reword his prayer as a prayer for yourself, your pastors and your church.

Who else do you need to pray this prayer for today?

# Week 9 Day 4

**Bible Reading: Malachi 3-4**

**SOAP Journal:**

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**Sermon Title:**

**Sermon Text:**

**Speaker:**

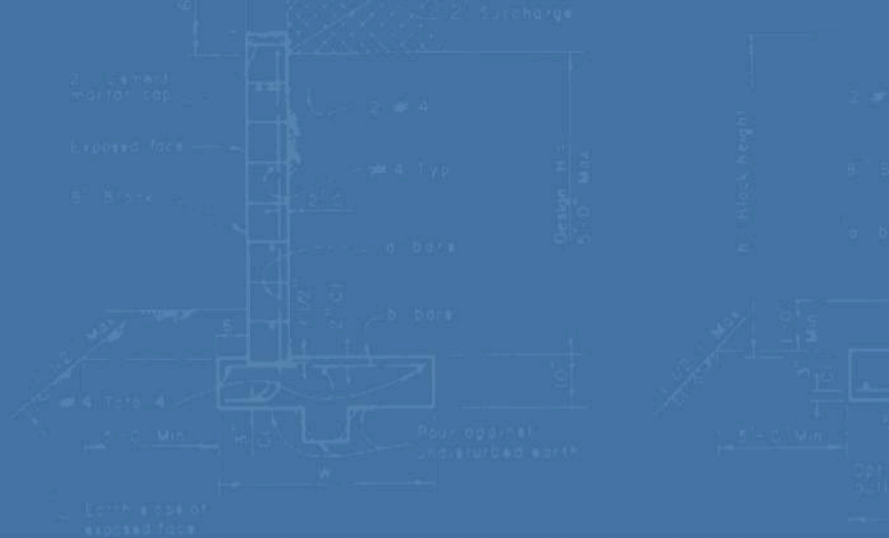
**Sermon Notes:**



**Notes...**

**Notes...**





### TYPE 1-A

The book you hold in your hand has been designed to be your companion throughout this study of the first seven chapters of Nehemiah. Each week contains:

- A page to take notes from each Sunday's sermon,
- A page for notes/prayer needs from your Community Group,
- And follow-up study materials for four days each week.

The focus of our sermon series will be on the return of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the wall surrounding the city of Jerusalem, but this Recharge study will also dive into some of the other books written during this same time frame. Hopefully this will provide you with the needed context to be able to fully understand this book.

It is our prayer that God will show you the things that He wants you to learn, and that you will obey all that He shows you!



### TYPE 2-A

Temple Baptist Church   
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