



Life is unsettling. There are situations that make us anxious, uncomfortable, and alarmed. Whatever it is in your life that is unsettling to you, it has probably been going on for a while. Maybe you feel if you just took action you could fix what unsettles you. Maybe you feel that it cannot change, and the best approach is to ignore the situation, distract yourself, or cope the best you can. The example of Nehemiah challenges us to a response that is bolder, and riskier. PRAYER. Through prayer we open our hearts to God and become willing to let Him speak to us.

Text: Nehemiah 1

Discussion Questions:

The following are based on the “My Application” Questions found in the bulletin this week. (Leader, urge your group members to attend worship—or watch the sermon online—and to spend time considering and answering those questions before coming to the group. This will produce a richer discussion time.)

1. What is unsettling you? If one thing in your life or your world could change in 2019, what would it be?
2. Look at Nehemiah’s response in 1:3-4. Why is it so important to allow time for grieving and praying? (What is the value of grief?)

3. Why do we tend to avoid doing so? What are the distractions that would keep you from going there?
4. Read 1:5-11 and list all the characteristics of God in Nehemiah's prayer. How do these characteristics encourage you?
5. Is prayer your first response or your last resort?
6. How do our plans and actions change when prayer is our first response?
7. Share some answers to prayer you have received.

Prayer

Spend sometime praying together over the "Unsettled" areas of your lives.

Too often we share requests, and get advice for proposed solutions, but never pray. This week, try skipping the "sharing-our-prayer-requests" step, and just pray. Open your hearts to God, and be willing to let Him speak.

Application

This week, the entire Hill Country Bible Church staff will be taking part in a Week of Prayer & Fasting. We're shutting down the ministry engine, closing the offices, turning off our phones, pressing pause on the work, generally saying "no" to everything else that demands our attention in order to seek God's Face. We certainly would be grateful for your prayers on our behalf.

We would love for you to pray along with us this week. You may choose to fast. Maybe there is something you need to grieve over. Maybe you can set aside some time to unplug from your distractions, connect with God, and to listen to His voice. What does He have to say about the areas of your life that are "Unsettled"? How will He re-align your plans and actions with His priorities?

Scripture Memory

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to his power that is at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations for ever and ever! Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20-21

Great Adventure 2019!

You and your small groups will want to play a key part in saturating Austin with the love of Jesus this year! Save the dates and plan the Great Adventure into your calendars for 2019. Get your group thinking early of how you might serve together during the Great Adventure.

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| • Captain's Camp – 4/13-14 | -Pray for the student leader training |
| • Concert of Prayer – 6/9 | -Bring your whole group! |
| • Bootcamp – 6/16-21 | -Team Drivers needed! |
| • BYBC/XA – 7/8-11 | -Back Yard Bible Club Hosts & Team Drivers needed! |
| • Summerfest – 7/12 (LL), 7/13 (BC) | -Man a game or food booth! |
| • Concert of Praise – 8/4 | -Bring your whole group! |