



CALLING + CHARACTER

Normal Campus Sermon Study - 10.4.2026

Leader's Corner

Intentionality | Student Takeover

Nehemiah 2:11-20

Main Idea: The Jesus life requires intentional inspection, direction, formation, and action. Vision isn't simply seeing what everyone else sees—it's learning to see what God sees and intentionally responding.

Main Passage: Nehemiah 2:11–20

Supporting Passages: Psalm 78:4–8; Psalm 145:4; Mark 9:35–37; 1 Timothy 4:12

Main Practice: Identify one person from a generation behind you and take one intentional step toward encouraging, investing in, listening to, or discipling them this week.

Leader Summary: Nehemiah didn't arrive in Jerusalem and immediately start giving orders. He slowed down. He inspected the wall. He paid attention to what was broken and allowed what he saw to shape what came next.

Intentional discipleship works similarly. We pay attention to what God is doing, listen carefully to the people in front of us, and then respond with purpose.

Student Takeover gives us an opportunity to do that with the next generation—not merely talking about students, but seeing them, listening to them, celebrating what God is already doing in them, and asking how we can intentionally come alongside them.

Prayer and Praise

Read Psalm 145:4 together:

"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

Discuss: Who from an older generation intentionally invested in your faith? What did they do that made an impact?

Pray Together:

God, thank You for the people who intentionally invested in us. Give us eyes to see what You see in the generations around us. Help us listen before we speak, encourage more than we correct, and make ourselves available to the people You place in our lives. Show us where You are already working and give us courage to join You there. May one generation faithfully tell another about Your goodness and invite them into life with Jesus. Amen.

Worship Suggestions:

* The Blessing — Kari Jobe, Cody Carnes & Elevation Worship

* Goodness of God — Bethel Music

* Same God — Elevation Worship

Group Discussion

Intentional Eyes:

Read Nehemiah 2:11–16

Nehemiah knew Jerusalem's walls were broken before he arrived, but knowing about the problem wasn't enough. He personally went out and inspected what was happening.

Discuss:

- * What stands out about the way Nehemiah approaches the situation?
- * Why do you think he took time to inspect the walls before announcing a plan?
- * What's the difference between seeing a problem and intentionally trying to understand it?
- * Where might God be asking you to slow down, pay attention, and see something differently?

Vision isn't simply seeing what everyone else sees. It's seeing what God sees.

Read Psalm 78:4–8

God's people were commanded to intentionally pass their faith from one generation to the next.

- * What words or phrases stand out to you?
- * According to this passage, what does one generation owe the next?
- * What could it look like for us to tell the next generation about God through more than just our words?

Read Mark 9:35–37 & 1 Timothy 4:12

Jesus intentionally welcomed children into His presence. Paul challenged Timothy not to wait until he was older to become an example.

Together, these passages challenge both generations: adults intentionally make room for younger people, and younger people intentionally live as examples now.

- * What do these passages teach us about how generations should relate to one another?
- * How can adults unintentionally overlook or underestimate younger people?
- * What might adults learn from the faith of the next generation?

Practice

Inspect the Wall:

Nehemiah inspected before he acted. This Sunday, we had an opportunity to do something similar by listening to students describe what they see happening in their generation. Revisit the questions students were asked:

- Where do you see God moving among junior high and high school students?
- What did you hear Sunday that encouraged or surprised you?
- What are students walking through where the church has an opportunity to step in?

Rather than immediately thinking about programs, ask: What could someone like me do?

- What do you hope the church looks like or is doing in the future to reach people for Jesus?
- What would change if we took their answers seriously?

Make It Personal:

Take a moment individually and write down the name of one person from a generation behind you.

Then complete this sentence: "This week I will intentionally _____."

It could be listening, asking a meaningful question, showing up, encouraging them, praying for them, sharing your story, inviting them into something you're doing, or simply reminding them that you see God at work in their life.

The goal isn't to correct the next generation from a distance. It's to disciple them through relationship.

Individual Challenge:

Do your one intentional action this week.

Then pray each day: *"God, help me see what You see and intentionally join You in what You're doing."*

Further Study

Nehemiah 2:17–20 — Notice what happens after Nehemiah has inspected the wall. Intentional inspection eventually leads to intentional action.

Psalms 145:1–7 — What exactly is one generation supposed to communicate to another?

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 — Notice how naturally discipleship is woven into everyday life.

2 Timothy 1:3–7 — Look at the generational influence of Lois and Eunice on Timothy's faith.

One Final Question:

If the next generation experienced Jesus partly through the way our generation loved, listened to, encouraged, and invested in them—what would we want them to experience?