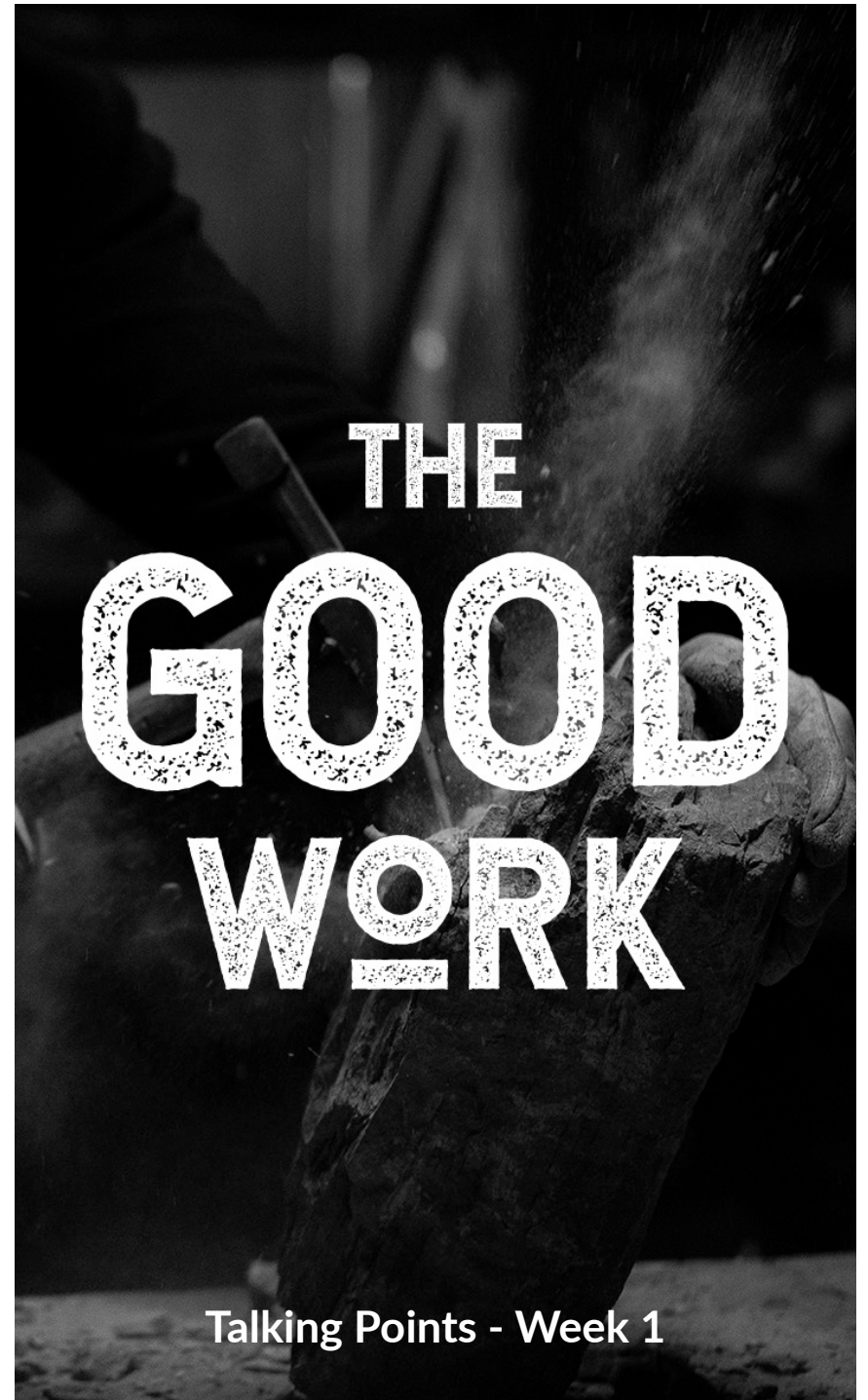


## NOTES & QUOTES



## **CONNECT** (BUILD RELATIONSHIPS)

1. Have you ever built something completely from scratch, overseeing the entire project? What did you build? Why? What was the experience like?
2. If you could develop or lead a project, that you knew would succeed, what would you try to achieve? What issue would you address (big or small, for yourself or for others)?
3. What are the most important characteristics of a good, effective leader? Who do you respect as a leader (in the church, community, world)?

## **THRIVE** (EXPLORE BIBLICAL TRUTH)

4. Read 1:1-4. Who brings news to Nehemiah about the state of Jerusalem and what news do they give? How does Nehemiah respond to the news (1:4) and what does this tell us about him?
5. Notice the structure and content of Nehemiah's prayer? There are elements of adoration, confession and petition. When you are deeply frustrated or sad over a difficult situation, what do your prayers to the Lord sound like?
6. After calling God "the great and awesome God who keeps covenant...with those who love him," Nehemiah reminds God of His covenant promise. Since God does not need to be reminded of His promises, why does Nehemiah remind Him?
7. What does Nehemiah want God to do on his own behalf, with regard to the Persian king he serves (1:11b)?
8. Why does Nehemiah fast as part of seeking the will of the Lord? Why is fasting important? What is its connection to prayer and faith?

9. Nehemiah confesses the sins of his people, his family and his own sin (1:6). Have you ever practiced corporate confession when you pray? What does it look like? Look at the pattern of Nehemiah's prayer (1:7).

## **COMMIT** (BE ON MISSION)

10. In the book of Nehemiah, the steadfast love of the Lord God will be shown to His covenant people despite their past, present and future disobedience. How have you witnessed the steadfast love of the Lord in your own life?
11. How grieved are you about the physical and spiritual state of God's people, your family or even your own life? Enough to passionately pray? Enough to stand up and do something?
12. When you hear news about the lostness of the world, the reality of injustice or the suffering of others, do you tend to despair over what is? Accept what is? Or pray for what should be? Why?

### **PAUSE, PONDER & PRAY**

Pray through this beautiful prayer in Nehemiah 1:5-11. Notice the elements of Nehemiah's prayer and reflect on what aspect you need to employ more faithfully in your prayers? Take time to write a prayer to God that models Nehemiah's (adoration, confession, petition). If you are comfortable share it with your group/family/friend.