



“New Year Hope”

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A new year is coming and most of us are glad to be saying goodbye to 2020. However, what are your goals in 2021 and what will you accomplish? Answer this question: In 2021, I want to do _____?

As you go into the New Year, your 2021 goals most likely fall into one of these 4 categories:

- Relationships
- Finances
- Physical
- Spiritual

1. Which of these categories do you want to see progress in 2021?

The Story of Nehemiah is the story of a man with a plan who EMERGED with Hope. Come discover the plan of hope God has for you in 2021 and how to put that hope into action.

Read *Nehemiah 1:3 (Message)*. First, Nehemiah defined the problem. It is important that we define our problem, not let our problem define us.

2. What problem is keeping you from progressing in the 4 categories listed above?

3. Have you allowed this problem to define you – to hold you back?

Read *Nehemiah 1:4 (Message)*. Second, Nehemiah took the problem to God in prayer and fasting. Nehemiah knew that he was not equipped to solve this problem, so he took it to the problem-solver, God.

4. Have you taken your desire to do better in 2021 to God?

5. Have you named your problem before God and asked Him for His help?

Read *Nehemiah 2:17-18 (Message)*. Third, Nehemiah did not just name the problem and pray about it; he put in the work. Hope is the catalyst, however, hope by itself does not solve the problem. Action is needed.

6. What action do you need to take to progress in the new year in your relationships? In your finances? In your physical well-being? In your spirituality?

7. What can I begin to do this next week to move to the next level in one of these areas?

Read *Nehemiah 6:1-3 (Message)*. Nehemiah faced opposition and forces attempting to distract him from the work. We will face opposition and distractions as we work to progress in the goals we set. Like Nehemiah we must be steadfast and focused on our goals and the results. For Nehemiah, the wall which lay in ruins for 152 years was rebuilt in 52 days.

8. What opposition or distractions do you face when trying to accomplish a goal?

9. What can you do to be steadfast and stay focused on your goals?

Family Connect Discussion Starter:

Start by discussing something you want to do or accomplish as a family in 2021. Next, ask each person what one thing they would like to do in 2021. Have someone write down the responses so you have a record and can look at them again in a month.