

Habit 2- Begin with the end in mind- The Life of Nehemiah
Nehemiah 1-2 ~ May 16, 2026
7 Habits of Highly Successful People
Hope Chapel Kealahou - Pastor Arlen Nagata

The Goshen Challenge for 90 days.

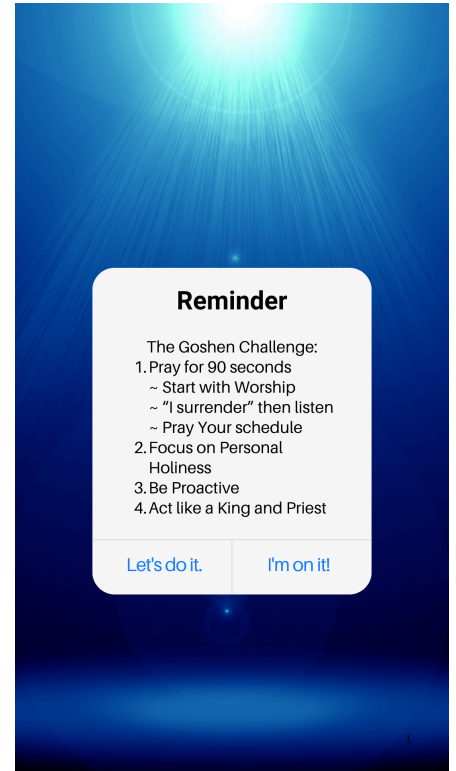
1. Pray for 90 seconds
 - a. Start with Worship
 - b. Pray "I surrender" then listen
 - c. Pray through your schedule today
2. Focus on Personal Holiness
3. Be Proactive
4. Act like a King and Priest

Some Notes from the Book:

- To begin with the end in mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It means to know where you're going so that you better understand where you are now and so that the steps you take are always in the right direction.
- We're often so busy cutting through the undergrowth we don't even realize we're in the wrong jungle.
- To begin with the end in mind means to approach my roles in life with my values and direction clear. (This is your Personal Mission Statement)
- 3 years ago, I taught this habit and talked about Personal Mission Statements. You can catch that message here.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLst-yttZAM>
- Notes:
<https://journeychurchhawaii.s3.amazonaws.com/Personal-Mission-Statement-Notes.pdf>
- Here's the online tool to help you: <https://msb.franklincovey.com/>

What is a personal mission statement? A statement that defines your values, who you are on how you define success.

- Who am I?
- Why am I here?



- What moves me? What am I passionate about?

For Nehemiah it **wasn't** his profession.

But his profession and position enabled him to fulfill his mission.

For followers of Jesus, our personal mission must be connected to and informed by the Bible. If you'd like a deeper understanding of the Bible, I'd like to challenge you to find a friend or two and read through the Bible together.

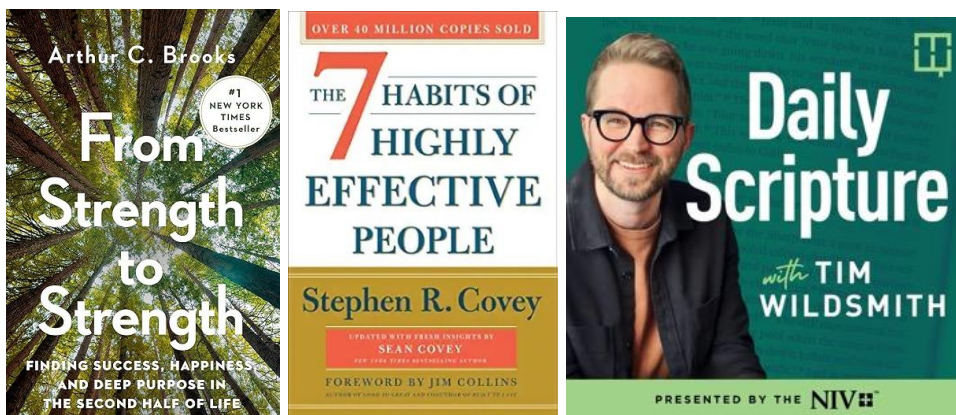
I've been following along with the NIV Daily Scripture Bible podcast this year and it's helped me to daily stay in God's word everyday.

To begin with the end in mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It means to know where you're going so that you better understand where you are now and so that the steps you take are always in the right direction.

Things to think about:

- Are you building your life on principles (not people)?
- Do you have any questions about creating your mission statement?
- Have you revisited your mission when you change seasons of life?
- Have you looked at your roles in light of your mission?

Resources today:



Bonus: The 7 Habits in the Life of Nehemiah

Habits 1–3: Nehemiah’s private victory

Habit 1 – Be Proactive (Neh. 1–2)

He refuses passivity: news about Jerusalem moves him from sadness to prayerful initiative, asking God to use him rather than just complaining about the problem.

He takes responsibility within his circle of influence: he leverages his position with Artaxerxes, requests letters, resources, and military escort, and then travels to Jerusalem at personal risk.

Habit 2 – Begin with the End in Mind (Neh. 2)

Vision: not “build a wall,” but “remove our disgrace and restore God’s people to safety and dignity under God’s covenant.”

He privately surveys the ruins at night, mentally mapping the future wall and planning the work before announcing anything publicly.

Habit 3 – Put First Things First (Neh. 2–3)

He sequences priorities: prayer → planning → inspection → vision-casting → organizing teams.

He allocates people to specific sections of the wall, often near their homes, ensuring focus on the most strategic work rather than side issues.

Habits 4–6: Nehemiah’s public victory

Habit 4 – Think Win-Win (Neh. 5)

He confronts economic injustice among Jewish nobles who are exploiting their own people and calls them to restore fields and cancel interest.

His goal is not to “win” against the rich but to restore a community where everyone can thrive under God’s law—spiritual and economic renewal together.

Habit 5 – Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood (Neh. 1–2; 5)

Before acting, he listens deeply: to the report from Judah, to the condition of the walls, and to the cries of the poor in chapter 5.

Only after understanding reality does he speak—first to God in confession and petition, then to the king, then to the people with a clear, contextualized vision.

Habit 6 – Synergize (Neh. 3–4)

Nehemiah mobilizes a diverse body—priests, goldsmiths, perfumers, merchants—into a unified work crew.

The wall goes up because everyone owns a piece of the vision; despite opposition, they “worked with all their heart” and watched each other’s backs (builders with swords, guards, trumpeter).

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw (Renewal and reform)

Spiritual renewal (Neh. 8–10)

After the wall is built, Nehemiah does not stop at the “project”; he partners with Ezra to bring the Law before the people, leading to confession, covenant renewal, and joy.

This shows that true leadership includes spiritual “maintenance,” not just achieving one goal and coasting.