



# TRIPLE 15 SUNDAY SCHOOL

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## Quarter 3

July, August, September

### Quarterly Theme Description

Biblically the first the first account of a business model is shown between God and man. God created an environment for Adam to work in, gave him a job description and monitored his progress (Gen 2). All the principles and tools of a healthy business are the same tools that are needed to have a healthy family unit. In this quarter, we will explore how following Gods plan for family also prepares us to be kingdom entrepreneurs.

**July:** Blood Ties (Learning to build healthy relationships in a corporate setting with others by exploring Gods model of family).

**August:** Principles of Honor (Learning to honor Coworkers, employees, and consumers by exploring Gods model of family).

**September:** Generational Legacy (Learning to build a business that will leave a legacy of Jesus Christ by exploring Gods model of family).

## Unit 7 Lesson 1

### Corporate Vision for a Unified People

July 3, 2022

#### Personal Application Points:

UNDERSTAND that unity is essential for fulfilling corporate vision.

ACCEPT that it is God's will for Kingdom believers to be of one mind and one heart.

EMBRACE the opportunities we have daily to live in unity with our fellow co-laborers.

#### *Acts 33-4:31 IVN*

*“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all”*

#### Background & Current Times:

In October of 1992, Walt Disney Pictures released a family/sport movie called “The Mighty Ducks”. The movie told the story of an out of control lawyer who ends up being sentenced to coach a kids hockey team full of misfits and unskilled players. The coach, who is a former star player, tries every tactic and exercise to turn his team into winners, but it's not until he casts a vision that his whole team, including himself, can begin to believe things are turning around. During the timeframe of today's text, Jesus has given the Great Commission before ascending and leaving the Apostles. The Apostles have prayed and tarried, received the Holy Spirit and Peter has preached a great sermon leading thousands to lay down their lives to follow Christ. Peter's sermon was God's way of meeting the need for the Great Commission by converting a group of people that would be sent out to testify of who Jesus Christ is.

## Digging Deeper:

In Acts 4:31, the first thing we see is the believers praying and being filled with the Holy Spirit. As believers, there is nothing we can do in our own strength or power to produce unity. Unity comes by way of us choosing to live a life that is yielded to the Holy Spirit. In Acts, all the believers allowed themselves to be filled with the Holy Spirit; this filling not only put them in unity with Christ, but also with each other. It is this unity that comes from the spirit of God that is essential for fulfilling corporate vision. It is not God's will that believers are only able to relate to each other on external matters, but rather that through the spirit of God our minds and hearts are renewed that we all think and live like Him. Daily we as believers must answer the call to be filled over and over again so that the unity amongst us and Christ is never broken. It is this type of coming together that will release Kingdom power into the earth to change family members, coworkers and colleagues

## Unit 7 Lesson 2

### Covenant Relationships

July 10, 2022

#### Personal Application Points:

UNDERSTAND that true covenant relationships are a prerequisite for purpose.

BELIEVE that all covenant relationships must be facilitated based on the word alone.

REPENT from allowing emotions to dictate how covenant relationships are treated.

#### Mark 33-8:31 NIV

*He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.*

*<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”*

#### Background & Current Times:

Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield will forever be tied together as the creators of the widely renown ice cream brand, Ben & Jerry's. Though they have shared many experiences together, they will ultimately be recognized by the public for what they have produced. Ben & Jerry's road to producing was full of failures and short comings. One thing they did not allow to waiver was that they were on the journey together and each of their voices were to be respected. For the believer, God has assigned each of us covenant partners to serve alongside to produce for the Kingdom. These covenant relationships however, are not built on mutual respect, they are built on the foundation of God's word. The relationship between Jesus and the 12 disciples is a perfect example of what a covenant relationship looks like. Up to this point, the basis of the relationship had been to glorify God and to do so in a way that is in line with God's word. Prior to the rebuke that Jesus gives in the passage, Peter had just correctly discerned that Jesus is the Messiah. Peter goes from being blessed in one instance and rebuked in the next. This highlights the nature of a covenant relationship; it must be purposed based and biblically directed at all times.

## Digging Deeper:

Every relationship must have a premise and/or an objective that holds it together. For most of us, these vary depending on the relationship and the need. In covenant relationships, that premise is always to carry out the purpose of Christ. Covenant relationships are not designed to make you comfortable or pacify you, but rather to develop and grow you. The word of God is always going to be the reference to determine what is in and out of bounds. In Mark chapter 8, Jesus gives Peter a strong rebuke, not because he was upset with Peter personally, but because the words that Peter were speaking did not come from God. Jesus was unwilling to let the love he had for Peter keep him from silencing a voice that was not the Lord's. In fact, He shows true love by interacting according to the word and not His feelings.

## Unit 7 Lesson 3

### Submission

July 17, 2022

#### Personal Application Points:

DEFINE what it means to submit.

ABANDON misconceptions about submitting to others.

RESPOND to God's word to submit daily to the "masters" assigned to my purpose.

#### *Colossians 23-3:22 NIV*

*"Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,"*

#### Background & Current Times:

American Football is almost a way of life for the average American. Whether it's you rooting for your favorite local college team, or supporting your favorite professional player in the fall, hundreds of millions of people are glued to the television. Many men value football because the game was used to invest principles and values inside of them. Football is one of the few places in today's society where it is deemed ok for one person to give aggressive directions (coaching) and for a group of people (players) to practice submission by receiving and applying what has been shared. For this reason, many men especially value football for the principles acquired that not only applied to the game, but to life. The word slave has a very specific connotation in American culture as it is tied to very painful times in American history, especially for the African American culture. In Ancient Rome, slavery is more of a liberal term. Many slaves had highly skilled jobs such as accountants and physicians. Today, let us be sure not to allow our personal prejudices to become a barrier to receiving God's word.

## Digging Deeper:

One of the greatest tools in the arsenal of the believer is the ability to submit. Many view submission as a sign of weakness; however, it's through submission to another that great strength is shown. In Colossians chapter 3, we are given directions for slaves even though we are not the property of another person. God is still calling for many of us to enslave ourselves to the regiment, plans, and teachings of others around us that clash against our will. This is not to punish us, but rather for us to be built up through humbly obeying the God ordained masters that He has placed in our lives. When we obey through submission we give room for God to do an internal makeover in our hearts that transforms our relationships and work ethic. Today, let's choose to respond to God's word and submit to the masters that He has placed in our lives.



## Unit 7 Lesson 4

### Love is the Key

July 24, 2022

#### Personal Application Points:

CHOOSE to love deeply.

BELIEVE that my gift is for serving others.

COMMIT to being a faithful steward of God's grace.

#### 1 Peter 10-4:8 NIV

*Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

#### Background & Current Times:

The television show, "Family Matters", became a cultural phenomenon in the 1990's. The star of the hit series was none other than Jaleel White who played the iconic role of Steve Urkel. Urkel quickly became popular by being a klutz that regularly interrupted the lives of the other members of the cast, usually in a very humorous way for the viewer. In spite of his annoying antics, Urkel was still able to foster strong bonds with those on the show and ultimately with the viewers as well. This is not because of the humor he brought, but because of his willingness to love those around him. 1 Peter is known as one of the general epistles. Peter wrote this letter to believers who were suffering persecution in Northern Asia Minor. His hope was that it would encourage them to remain faithful to the Christian lifestyle, even under great oppression.

#### Digging Deeper:

Loving deeply is a right of passage to the believer. It is God's will that we love and that we love deeply, just as He loves us. For many of us we seek to put self-imposed limits and restrictions on that love, not because we are incapable of loving, but because we filter that love through past experiences and regrets from misconceptions and unbiblical-based attempts at loving others. Regardless of what our past

experiences may have been, one thing still holds true, God wants us to love and to love deeply. It is through loving according to God's standards that our God-given gifts are unlocked. The key for the believer is not practice, it is love. Love opens the heart that we can share our gifts authentically and in alignment with God's purpose. God has shown grace to each of us through His love, by way of redemption and reconciliation. Our proper response is to take the grace given to us and to utilize it to sow our gifts fueled by love.

## Unit 7 Lesson 5

### The Mandate to Forgive

July 31, 2022

#### Personal Application Points:

CHOOSE to forgive daily.

ACCEPT that being crucified is a part of life with Christ.

COMMIT to loving others while being mistreated.

#### Luke 23:33-34 NIV

*When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." <sup>Ⓜ</sup> And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.*

#### Background & Current Times:

In February of 2022, Kamrin Long was sentenced to 36 years in prison after pleading guilty to the second degree murder of Issac Garcia in April of 2021. However, the headline in news articles was not the sentencing. It was the response of Issac's father, Jose Garcia. "I'm a Christian, and I believe that God wants us to forgive," Garcia stated. "He expects us to forgive. He said forgive others the way you want to be forgiven. It's a daily struggle and I do forgive Kamrin, but I also pray to God to help me with my own forgiveness for Kamrin." Garcia said. Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of forgiving others. Leading into our passage today, Jesus has taken on the weight of the whole world's sin. He had chosen to die that we all may be forgiven. Today, let's choose to embrace our mandate to forgive as believers.

#### Digging Deeper:

It is a choice to forgive. This means that it may be excruciatingly painful at times, but it is always possible. Many of us choose not to love deeply because it is almost inevitable that the deeper you love the more you open yourself up to be hurt. However, we must look to the example of Jesus Christ who, even in the midst of His suffering, seized the opportunity to forgive. Practicing forgiving regularly keeps the heart healthy and pure. Jesus understood that in order to complete His mission, it was necessary that He maintained a pure heart. Jesus came to earth to be crucified; it was a

part of His purpose. Though we may not be nailed to a cross like our savior, we must always allow the same love that drove Jesus to the cross to also drive us to our appointed place of sacrifice as we stand ready to forgive. Although Jesus was unfairly treated and ridiculed, it was not His suffering that changed the world, but His suffering accompanied by His willingness to forgive and seek that same forgiveness on the behalf of others. Today, choose to continue the legacy our Heavenly Father has left for us to forgive.

## Unit 8 Lesson 1

### Honor in Harmony

August 7, 2022

#### Personal Application Points:

HEAR God's call for harmony in our communities.

ACCEPT God's standard of harmony.

ELIMINATE all barriers to living in harmony.

#### Romans 12:16-18 NIV

*“ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”*

#### Background & Current Times:

Paul often wrote to the churches and believers from various areas. In today's text, Paul is speaking to the believers in Rome. He is giving instructions about how believers are to exist as a community. Paul is instructing the believers to live in harmony and to avoid barriers to this type of living. In this, he instructs believers to live at peace with everyone. Paul undoubtedly understood that there would be barriers and opposition to harmony and peace. However, he gave the believers the solution to overcome whatever barriers they encountered.

Ants are said to be some of nature's most organized organisms. Although each ant is assigned a task, the entire colony works together for the longevity of the colony. Ants work together to accomplish tasks such as breaking down large pieces of food to ensure the nest is fed and attacking threats to the ant colony. They work to provide for the colony as a whole and they operate as one living creature. The ants' individual assignments don't prevent them from living in harmony with one another and using their strengths to compliment one another. We too can live as the ant!

#### Digging Deeper:

One of the ways we can show honor toward one another is by working in harmony. To work in harmony means to be in agreement and on one accord. This is not to imply

that there will be no differences of opinion, preferences and personalities. Nonetheless, when we decide to live in harmony with one another, we choose to put our opinions, preferences and personalities aside and work towards God's purpose. It is God's will that this same honor be shown to others in our community such as our co-workers, employees and consumers. There is no way to honor God without honoring those that He has placed in our lives as well. Showing honor in harmony goes beyond verbal agreement; it demands agreement of heart. To live in harmony means that pride, haughtiness and chaos cannot be present. We must sacrifice our individuality to live in harmony as God desires in all areas of our lives.

## Unit 8 Lesson 2

### Honor Through Submission and Love

August 14, 2022

#### Personal Application Points:

EXAMINE God's model for the family.

IDENTIFY how the model of the family is to be displayed in your community.

LIVE in the principles God has set for the family.

#### Ephesians 5:21-27 NIV

*“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing[a] her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”*

#### Background & Current Times:

In the book of Ephesians, Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, was writing to the believers in Ephesus. In his greeting, he addressed the people as “God’s holy people” and “the faithful in Christ Jesus”. Paul not only prayed for and encouraged the believers, he gave instructions about how they were supposed to live among one another. In this, he gave specific instructions regarding the order and functioning of the Christian household. Paul began this portion of his letter by instructing on submission and love. Before addressing any aspect of spiritual order, Paul instructs regarding mutual submission in the households. He then addresses wives’ submission to the husbands and husbands’ love for their wives. Paul’s instructions also serve as a model for how we are to honor one another today.

In Japanese culture, bowing is the most popular form of etiquette. This act is so important that companies in Japan train employees on the proper execution of bowing. Media often emphasizes bowing in greeting; however, this act is much more complex than what meets the eye as there are three types: informal, formal and very formal.

Bowing is used for greetings, appreciations, apologies and introductions. Still yet, there is a prescribed way to bow in each circumstance. In any instance, bowing is an exchange between persons to show some type of respectful acknowledgment. Bowing in American culture is seen as an act of submission. Today, we will focus on the the act of submission with a bow of the heart.

#### Digging Deeper:

God has placed us in various communities that include family, work, church and neighborhoods. Outside of family, a large majority of people spend the bulk of their time at work around co-workers, employees or consumers, which gives room for interactions of all kinds. As believers, it is important that we are interacting appropriately and modeling Godly principles with those in whom we are in contact. When we examine God's instructions for the family, we can clearly see a model to follow with others. It all starts with submission to one another in reverence to Christ. This submission includes our attitudes, words and actions. We are to submit to those who have been established as the head (supervisors, team leads, etc.). Even if we are in the lead positions, we too have the responsibility to exhibit love and build up those we lead. These are not just acts or practices, but instructions for how we must live daily in our communities. Ultimately, we honor God through our submission and love toward one another.



## Unit 8 Lesson 3

### Honor by Supporting and Forgiving

August 21, 2022

#### Personal Application Points:

IDENTIFY areas in your life absent of support and forgiveness.

EMBRACE God's way of honor through support and forgiveness.

DEMONSTRATE support and forgiveness to those in the workplace.

#### Colossians 3:13 NIV

*“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*

#### Background & Current Times:

As Paul was instructing the believers in Colossae, whom he called “faithful brothers and sisters in Christ”, he wrote about how they were to live as those raised with Christ. In verse 12, he addressed the people as God's chosen, which denotes that there is no separation, making them a family of believers. Paul encourages the people to bear with and forgive one another. To bear with means to support, to lend a hand or aid in carrying the weight of another. Paul also instructed to forgive if there is a grievance against another. He expected there to be some degree of conflict, but also made it clear that honor is still to be shown in those instances. He concludes verse 13 by specifying the manner and reason we are to forgive--“as the Lord forgave you”.

At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, two runners, Isaiah Jewett and Nijel Amos, became entangled and fell during the Men's 800 meter race. Both runners were close to the finish line when the incident occurred. When Jewett was about to lunge for the finish line, he recounted that he felt like someone hit the back of his heel causing him to fall. After the collapse, Jewett stated that Amos looked at him and said, “I'm sorry” and Jewett replied by saying, “It's Ok, man”, despite his anger. The two finished the race, arm around the shoulder, with Jewett finishing second to last and Amos finishing last. This is a great example of support and forgiveness.

## Digging Deeper:

Living in honor is not always the most comfortable or popular way as it demands self-denial and selfless living. When engaging with others in the workplace, conflicts of many kinds will inevitably present themselves. However intense the conflict may be, we are not excused from showing honor. God instructs us, through the Apostle Paul, to bear with one another. This means we are to show support and assist as a means of honor. The scripture does not specify this type of treatment toward a specific type of person. This means that we are to bear with those who are difficult and easy-going alike. The scripture also states that we are to forgive. There will be times where we experience grievances and offenses. Nevertheless, we are to forgive as Christ forgave us--without recalling the offenses at every opportunity.

## Unit 8 Lesson 4

### Honor through Obedience

August 28, 2022

#### Personal Application Points:

EXAMINE your heart towards obedience.

ADAPT God's perspective of obedience.

CHOOSE to honor God and others with obedience in the workplace.

#### Colossians 3:20 NIV

*“Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”*

#### Background & Current Times:

As Paul continues to speak to the believers at Colossae about the Christian household, he moves on from instructing wives and husbands regarding how they are to operate. In verse 20, he addresses children stating that they are to obey their parents as it pleases the Lord. Paul is sure to specify that the children are to obey the parents in everything as a means to cover all ground. He ends this verse by giving reason for the previous command. Paul kept the focus on the principle of obedience being pleasing to the Lord.

Military soldiers are taught obedience and to follow lawful orders given by a superior. This is especially important on the battlefield. Soldiers' obedience to orders affects the overall effectiveness of the military. The soldier's obedience is not predicated on the soldier's preference or the situation. He obeys because of the authority of the person giving the command and as a means to show honor. The soldier is not to question or provide a rebuttal, he is to submit and follow. Military soldiers are an excellent example of how honor is shown through obedience.

#### Digging Deeper:

Through the scripture, God instructs His people on the principle of obedience. Parents and children represent an authority-subordinate relationship with the parents being the authority figures. In the workplace, there are also authority-subordinate relationships as there is a hierarchy or chain of command to follow. There are often barriers to obedience that include differences in personalities, disdain for leadership styles and

disagreements with policies and procedures. Although these barriers exist, as believers, we are to still show honor to those who are in a position of authority by being obedient in everything. Even in the seemingly insignificant areas, obedience is required. Obedience is really about pleasing the Lord. When we are able to lay aside our preferences and obey those who are in places of authority, it shows that we are serious about pleasing the Lord.

## Unit 9 Lesson 1

### Building: Where is the Leader?

September 4, 2022

#### Personal Application Points:

AGREE with the need to have a clear leader before building.

IDENTIFY current hindrances to you acting as a leader for your God given business/company.

RESOLVE each hindrance with prayer by repenting of your acts.

#### Nehemiah 1:1-4 NIV

*“In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.” When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.”*

#### Background & Current Times:

The book of Nehemiah details a clear story of the building work in Jerusalem after Nehemiah’s arrival to this once thriving city. Prior to his arrival, Nehemiah demonstrated several actions that displayed he was serious about facilitating a work that would last. In addition, after he arrived to Jerusalem, Nehemiah took time to evaluate the current state of affairs, which solidified his internal intent to be successful in a building work. Nehemiah’s example serves as a roadmap to building a legacy among a community with and for families.

The Orlando Times is Central Florida's quality, African-American newspaper. It is published every Thursday and has a larger circulation than any other African-American newspapers in Orange County. Founded by Calvin Collins and several colleagues, The Orlando Times opened its doors for business on July 5th, 1975.

Currently, the Orlando Times is facilitated by Calvin and his mother, Lottie. The two work alongside each other to ensure the community is served through this weekly

publication. The Orlando Times hosts a variety of articles that highlight the African-American community in a positive manner that is both uplifting and forward. This publication houses articles regarding education, finance, legislation, health and wellness, and local leadership. This is an excellent example of business created for family, by family and with family. As you explore this lesson, take time to consider the highlighted principles and how you can apply them. [https://orlando-times.com/about\\_us\\_2.html](https://orlando-times.com/about_us_2.html)

### Digging Deeper:

The passage of scripture starts off with detailing an interaction between Nehemiah and his brother, along with others from his hometown. What's interesting about this interaction is Nehemiah takes time to not just visit with his brother, but to inquire about the well-being of the city in which his brother lives. This demonstrates a level of awareness and concern for family. Oftentimes, businesses are developed with an absence of legitimate concern for others and have an unyielding need for greed. Some very successful organizations were founded and thrived due to their ability to meet needs while simultaneously engaging their family in the building work. Nehemiah's example displays in order for any work with or for family to be successful, there must be a leader that is aware of needs and understands their role in engaging to meet them. Aim to be a leader of principle and see the legacy unfold!

## Unit 9 Lesson 2

### Built to Last: Yielding for Building

September 11, 2022

#### Personal Application Points:

REPENT from rejecting responsibility for your growth path.

IDENTIFY what truth you need to yield to.

YIELD to the truth and begin true building.

#### Nehemiah 2:17-18 NIV

*“Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace. I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.”*

#### Background & Current Times:

This scripture details a group of people that experienced their entire community being ruined as a result of their own sin. However, upon being called to acknowledge and accept the true state of their community, they agreed to yield in order to rebuild. This passage also illustrates a picture of yielding absent of manipulation and coercion. Instead, this yielding was an act of response to the grace of God and the undeniable evidence of His love. This type of agreement to move and act can only produce positive results.

In 2022, Nehemiah “Neo” Davis accepted the call to make change in his life and community after surveying his life and it’s ruins. In his testimony Neo recounts his delinquent behavior, numerous terminations from jobs and challenges with dealing with his absent father. Yet, he was still able to yield in truth to what was before him and commit himself to rebuilding his life. As a result, Neo started his own business and is now an author, entrepreneur and philanthropist. He shares principles for accomplishing dreams through mentorship, skill development and resource acquisition. His life is a testimony to how yielding brings success and builds a lasting legacy.

## Digging Deeper:

The yielding that was required in this group was to yield to the truth and take tangible, immediate and proactive action forward, in order to engage in the change process. Oftentimes, people become stuck in the reality of where they are and choose not to accept their ability to change where they are. We see here in scripture not only were community members yielding, but family members together collaborated in a work beyond their disappointments and pain to change their community. Their commitment to yielding to truth changed lives forever. Consider how you have remained in a stagnant position and failed to give yourself over to the truth of what lies within you. How has that impacted your family, community and future?



## Unit 9 Lesson 3

### Purpose Driven Vision

September 18 , 2022

#### Personal Application Points:

**AFFIRM** the purpose of your organization by sharing how it serves others.

**IDENTIFY** a threat to your company accomplishing a current goal.

**ADVOCATE** with a family member to have that threat eliminated.

#### Nehemiah 5:1-2 NIV

*“Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.”*

#### Background & Current Times:

At this point in scripture, the wall has been rebuilt and now the families in the community are experiencing hardship. The scripture details how the families together responded to the hardship in order to maintain their families after the building work was complete. There will be threats before, during and after the building process. What’s important is how one responds when those threats are identified in order to preserve legacy for generations to come. The scripture illustrates beautifully the necessity of family to operating in unity for the purpose of maintaining a safe and healthy family unit.

After the death of Trayvon Martin and many other black men at the hands of law enforcement, there were many advocacy efforts raised within the African-American community. These advocacy efforts were focused on obtaining justice for law enforcement officials who acted irresponsibly in their positions of authority and to eliminate the continued action of young black men being murdered. The ultimate goal was to preserve life so black men across the world will have equal opportunities to live healthy lives and make significant contributions to their families and communities.

## Digging Deeper:

Undoubtedly, in any business endeavor there will always be challenges and threats to the success of the building. Regardless of the presence of those elements, there is a consistent need to exercise the principle of justice through advocacy. In Nehemiah, we see a clear picture of this being facilitated in unity within a family. The scripture details how the wives and husbands together were able to advocate for the identity (should this word be replaced with something else?) of their family. This demonstrates the leaders of the family unit working together in a like-minded spirit for the purpose of preserving what they have diligently worked to build. As you move forward in your business development and organizational expansion, keep in mind there will always be a need for advocacy in a unified fashion.

## Unit 9 Lesson 4

### Collaborative Building

September 25, 2022

#### Personal Application Points:

ACCEPT your building process has been absent of collaboration.

IDENTIFY what people you are to collaborate with while building.

PLAN time to build with at least one person on a specified goal for your organization.

#### Nehemiah 3:3 NIV

*“The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place.”*

#### Background & Current Times:

In this passage of scripture, we see building is occurring at the Fish Gate with the sons of Hassenaah. This scripture details the collaboration of brothers to not just participate, but to complete a work. In today's society, there are many circumstances that disrupt the ability for families to build together. In the days to come, look to this example as the need to build alongside others. Undoubtedly, this process required a specified level of communication, skill application and accuracy to complete. Consider how each brother was able to add to the work to ensure it's success. How may your building process be hindered as a result of not collaborating with family?

Julia Childs is known as a culinary icon. Born in 1912, Julia became well known for her culinary masterpieces and her love for cooking. What most people don't know is Julia Child worked with her husband, Paul Child, who served as a photographer and administrative aid to ensure all her culinary pursuits were carried out in excellence. Paul Child has shared how he found great joy serving and working alongside his wife to help build a legacy. Even today, Julia Child's legacy lives on through the many books, television shows and scholarships created in her name.

#### Digging Deeper:

When building, there can be a misconception that the end product is more important than the process. The book of Nehemiah details building in a specified way to ensure a clarified result that proved to be meaningful for a family and a community. It is

important to note when building, one must be conscious of how the building occurs to ensure that what is built will last for decades to come and so others will reap positive benefits from what was created. Building in a collaborative manner ensures the best quality product is produced. When there is a genuine desire to build in view of the future, collaboration will be a required element, not a perceived barrier.