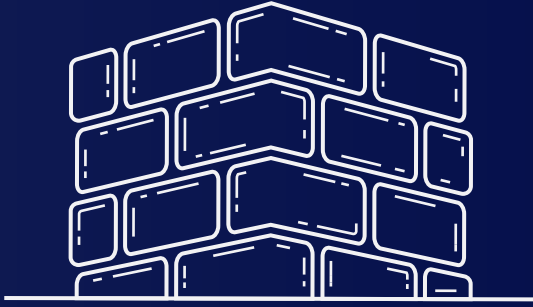


FEBRUARY 12, 2023



# Let's Build Together

LET US RISE UP AND BUILD  
- NEHEMIAH 2:18 -

## Opposition Included

**NEHEMIAH 4:1-8**

# Love God. Love People.

Connect Church Exists to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ who Love God, Love People, and Impact the World.

## Welcome to our Sunday Morning Worship Experience

We are continuing our sermon series and church wide challenge, Let's Build Together. But what are we building?

- 1) We're building ourselves**
- 2) We're building others**
- 3) We're building the kingdom**

Imagine what God can do when we all work together to build in response to Nehemiah's call, Let's Build Together (2:18).

During our weekly challenges we are learning all about the spiritual disciplines, the various practices outlined in the Bible to help us grow in spiritual maturity.

Join us as we take the challenge. We are starting week 5 today. Get all the details in the following pages of your bulletin today.

**FIRST-TIME HERE?**  
Text **GUEST** to

**817-677-9700**

## Today's SERMON

### Let's Build Together Part 5

#### Opposition Included

Nehemiah 4:1-8 NASB

<sup>1</sup> Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry, and he mocked the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And he spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy people of Samaria and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore the temple for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish it in a day? Can they revive the stones from the heaps of rubble, even the burned ones?" <sup>3</sup> Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him, and he said, "Even what they are building—if a fox were to jump on it, it would break their stone wall down!"

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DOWNLOAD TODAY'S SERMON NOTES  
[CONNECTCHURCH.COM/NOTES](http://CONNECTCHURCH.COM/NOTES)



TAKE THE CHALLENGE

# THE Nehemiah CHALLENGE

**Week 5: Day 29-35**

**Spiritual Discipline of Worship**  
(Nehemiah 4:1-8)

Worship is our response to the  
revelation of God in our lives

*"Worship the Lord your God and  
serve Him only" — Luke 4:8*

We are one body, and each member  
belongs to one another - Romans 12:5

## PARTNERSHIP CLASS

**Sunday, February 19 @ 9:00am**  
sign up @ [cnnct.ch/partner](http://cnnct.ch/partner)

COME WATCH THE BIG GAME WITH  
YOUR CONNECT CHURCH FAMILY

## SUPER BOWL PARTY AND WING CHALLENGE TODAY AT 5PM



**GAMES | PRIZES | FOOD | FELLOWSHIP**  
WE WILL ALSO HAVE FUN HALFTIME GAMES  
*everyone is invited to join us*

## CONNECT CARES

— MINISTRY TEAM —

**INTEREST MEETING**  
**Sunday, January 19 after service**

Caring for One Another - 1 Corinthians 12:25

# What's HAPPENING



### Wednesday Prayer Call

Join us for the morning prayer call

**Wednesday 7:00 - 7:15AM**

Dial in number: **(669) 275-1250**



### Next Steps

Stop by the Next Steps Table today where  
we can answer any of your questions.



### Kenya Mission Trip

We are taking a team to Mombasa, Kenya

on June 22 - July 4! Come and join us!

March 29 - Training Session #2

Stop by the Mission Table to get sign up info



### Baptism

We believe that water baptism is an act of  
obedience for every believer who has  
repented of his sin and confessed faith in  
Christ. If you've accepted Christ but have  
not been baptized we invite you to take the  
next step in your journey and get baptized on  
next Sunday, February 19, at the beginning  
of service. Stop by the Next Steps table  
today for more information.



### Quilting Ministry Sewcial

We will be having our 5th Annual All Church  
SEW-cial on next Sunday, February 19. Please  
stop by the sewing machines to sew a few  
lines for charity. We need everyone to participate.

## Serving OPPORTUNITIES

COME SERVE ON THE  
MEDIA TEAM

Serving is where our faith meets actions.  
There are many opportunities to serve:

- First Impressions Team
- Students
- Medical / Safety Team
- Connect Cares
- Children's Ministry
- Connect Quilters
- Worship / Media Team
- Missions
- College Team
- Adore Women

**Stop by the Next Steps Table for info**

## Week 5: Day 29 - 35

# Opposition Included (Nehemiah 4:1-8)

As we have been practicing the spiritual disciplines over these past few weeks I am struck at how much overlap we see in these habits and practices of devotion. While each habit is distinct by definition, many of them flow to and through one another. What I mean is as while I am meditating on Gods words I find myself praying those words back to God. As I am studying the word, I naturally find myself meditating on the words I am reading.

Our prayer is that as you practice spiritual disciplines, day by day the eyes of your understanding will be enlightened (Ephesians 1:18). In this we have a promise from God that, “We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:18). One day, we will look like Christ.

## ☐ **Worship: An Activity and a Lifestyle**

The word worship can refer to an activity we do as well as a lifestyle. It is something we do but also something we are. We are worshipers. As we explore the spiritual discipline of worship we are looking at the action of worship - worshipping.

In a John 4:23 Jesus said, “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.” God is looking for “true worshipers”. He is looking for people who have a passion for God and aren’t ashamed to show it, who worship God for who He is. For people who worship God the way He wants to be worshiped, as revealed in Scripture.

## ☐ **Where to Begin??**

### AN EDITORS NOTE

As we talk about the spiritual discipline of worship this week I struggle with where to actually begin. As with all of these articles on the spiritual disciplines, I have much to say. In fact I had to add another page (4 pages) to our bulletin handout to accommodate all I had to say about Bible study. But this week I really struggled.

So if you’re reading this I must have come up with something. But just know that however this article starts, it could have started 1,000 other ways. There is so much more that can be said about this subject.



## 📖 An Activity: True Worship from the True Worshiper — John 4:13-26

The New Testament word for worship means to lay prostrate. The word worship means to kiss, to adore, and to revere. It is a picture of a dog kissing its master's hand in appreciation. For new covenant believers, worship is showing appreciation for all that comes from our Master - Jesus.

In this passage of scriptures, Jesus teaches us many truths about worship during an encounter with a woman of Samaria. This woman went to the well as she did many times before to fulfill a physical thirst. But Jesus went beyond her physical to her spiritual need. He knew that in her heart she had a spiritual thirst that only He could satisfy. Following are some lessons on true worship and what it is all about.

### 1. Worship involves confession (v. 15-18)

Confession literally means to say the same thing. It means to agree with God on the things He says. Secrets and dishonesty block us from the presence of the Lord. Confession releases us and frees us to truly worship the Lord. True worship before the Lord involves confession.

### 2. Worship involves revelation (v. 19)

A revelation took place in the life of the woman from Samaria that day as Jesus revealed Himself to her. In verse 26 Jesus lets her know that He was the One that they were waiting to receive — the Messiah.

This revelation of the Lord causes true worship. And our worship is our response to the revelation of God in our lives. (We have the full revelation of God in Jesus - see Colossians 1:15-20). ***It is impossible to worship God unless we have a revelation of who He is. It is also impossible not to worship the Lord once He has revealed Himself.***

### 3. Worship is not a place (v. 20-21)

Worship is not a place, it is an attitude of the heart for every believer. Jesus came to tell us that worship would not be in a place where we go. The Lord would no longer dwell in temples made with hands but in the heart of every believer. The physical earthly sacrifices, and man-made temples will be exchanged for spiritual sacrifices in spiritual houses. ***You...are being built up a spiritual house...to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God... - 1 Peter 2:5***

📖 David's response of worship to God upon seeing His glory in creation:

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*

...

*O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! — Psalm 8:1-9*



**4. Worship is with the whole heart (v. 22-23)**

Worship is that water springing out of our belly; the rivers of living water from springing forth from our souls (v. 14); the water that Jesus offers. Worship flows from our hearts (see John 7:38) and it is expressed in how we live. We express worship based on, and out of what is taking place inside our hearts.

**5. Worship is in spirit and truth (v. 23-24)**

God is spirit and as such He must be worshiped in spirit and in truth. The hour that Jesus was speaking of was the hour of His death, which removed the barrier of sin that prohibited man from the presence of God. With the death of Jesus and the Holy Spirit deposited in the life of every believer we are now able to worship the Father in spirit, or by the leading of the Holy Spirit. We worship the Father in truth or reality; in the reality of who He is.

These teachings from Jesus show us what true worship is. Everyone can praise God, but only those that have the Spirit of God living inside can appreciate what comes from Jesus.

Our God seeks true worship from true worshipers. Jesus shows us how we can offer true worship to the Lord. True worship is not a prescribed set of rules in a certain place but it is who we are - true worshipers of the one true God.

**PSALM 29:1-2**

**THE COMMAND TO WORSHIP THE LORD**

ASCRIBE TO THE LORD,  
YOU HEAVENLY BEINGS,  
ASCRIBE TO THE LORD  
GLORY AND STRENGTH.  
ASCRIBE TO THE LORD  
THE GLORY DUE  
TO HIS NAME;  
WORSHIP THE LORD  
IN THE SPLENDOR  
OF HIS HOLINESS.

This word ascribe means to attribute something to or regard a quality as belonging to. It means to give or provide.

To ascribe glory means to give glory and strength is to recognize His character, that He is a Holy God.

Worshipping God in the splendor of His holiness; any act or word which is done intentionally to give God glory.



## Overview: Nehemiah 4:1-8

*Opposition should be expected*

In this chapter we see how the people were mocked by their enemies while they were rebuilding. We meet Sanballat and Tobiah again in chapter 4. At first they were first deeply disturbed when they heard a man wanted to help the people of Jerusalem (2:10). Then they used jeers and intimidation to prevent the work from starting (2:19). Now that the work had begun, they were furious and very indignant (4:1).

Sanballat and Tobiah sought to bring discouragement through criticism. But because Nehemiah had legal protection from the king (remember those letters in Nehemiah 2:7), Sanballat and Tobiah had no authority to actually stop the work. All they could do was to discourage the Jews from continuing the work.

We see Nehemiah comes against their attack with prayer. He did not answer his enemies. He did not try to reason or debate with them. Instead, he took it to God in prayer. In his prayer, Nehemiah asked for God's attention and mercy. He asked God to fight their battles. Notice in Nehemiah's prayer His concern is for God's name, not his own. For he says in verse 5, they have provoked You. He asks God—who is good and just—to deal with them. We see in verse 6 the result of Nehemiah's prayer to God: the work continues and God strengthened them to reach the halfway mark of building the wall.

But those that opposed the work did not let up. In fact they became more serious and they conspired to attack Jerusalem.

## A QUESTION TO CONSIDER

**Is it vengeance is mine, says the Lord or is it vengeance is mine, says me?**

For Nehemiah, prayer was a first resource, not a last resort. When times of opposition come, God wants us to rely on Him – to take our problems to the Lord in prayer. And just like I used to tattle on my older sister when she was picking on me, Nehemiah tattled. Nehemiah tattled on those that opposed the work of God, for the sake of God's name. God answered the prayer by giving them all a mind to work.

God gave him a work to do, and he would not be distracted from it. People can only criticize you when you are doing something. If you are never being criticized, then, it could be that you are just sitting around. When you take a right stand, you are going to be criticized.

As long as the people in Jerusalem were content with the walls being broken down; of the great trouble; and shame, they did not face any opposition. But when the people began to serve the Lord to bring glory to God's name, their enemies united and increased their opposition.

Chapters 4 describe at least four different tactics that the enemy used to try to stop the work on the walls: 1. ridicule (1–6) 2. plots of war (vv. 7–9), 3. discouragement (v. 10), and fear (vv. 11–23).

But none of these devices worked either. The people were ready and prepared for this opposition. Paul writes, “we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians 2:11). As Warren Wiersbe wrote, If you start building, you will soon be battling; so, be prepared!

*A mind to work is a gift from God, and no significant job will ever be accomplished until people come together with a mind to work.*



# ☰ True Worship vs False Worship

## Isaiah 66:1-4

### A heart that God blesses

*A humble and contrite heart*

<sup>1</sup>This is what the LORD says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Could you build me a temple as good as that? Could you build me such a resting place? <sup>2</sup>My hands have made both heaven and earth; they and everything in them are mine. I, the LORD, have spoken! “I will bless those who have **humble and contrite hearts**, who **tremble at my word**.

#### *verses 1-2*

**A delight in those who respond rightly to His word.** What does God — whose throne is heaven, whose footstool is the earth — delight in? Of all the things that He has ever made His eye of delight in not on those or the magnificent temple. Then what is? What does He delight in: him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word. He says I will look to this one. It is not about a building; even a beautiful building, but the one who responds. What delights God? A heart that responds when He speaks.

### A heart that God does not delight in

*A heart that chooses what God despises*

<sup>3</sup>But those who **choose their own ways— delighting in their detestable sins**—will not have their offerings accepted. When such people sacrifice a bull, it is no more acceptable than a human sacrifice. When they sacrifice a lamb, it’s as though they had sacrificed a dog! When they bring an offering of grain, they might as well offer the blood of a pig. When they burn frankincense, it’s as if they had blessed an idol. <sup>4</sup>I will send them great trouble— all the things they feared. For when I called, they did not answer. When I spoke, they did not listen. They deliberately sinned before my very eyes and chose to do what they know I despise.”

#### *verses 3-4*

**A heart that God does not delight in God.** In these verses we see the opposite of the one who delights in God. He tells us that these people have chosen their own ways and their soul delights in their abominations. In their hearts they were murderers, perverts, and idolaters. They bring proper gifts to the Lord but when they walk away they go their own way. These people go away and offend God with their conduct. They hear God’s word but they ignore it and refuse to go in the way. They were coming up to offer up sacrifices but leaving to go their own way.

*In these verses we have a contrast of true worship against false worship. The Lord is calling us to true worship filled with hearts that delight in Him. Do we respond with trembling or are our hearts hardened? If you would worship before God but refuse to tremble at His word - refuse to hear His word and respond to it - we are offering false worship, gifts that brings nothing to God.*





## Examples of Worship

### Examples of Acceptable Worship

*Throughout the bible we see that God only and accepts certain acts of worship.*

#### Abel's Offering (Genesis 4:4)

Abel's offering was acceptable to the Lord because it was the best of all that he could offer. He did not withhold the best of his flocks for himself. He did not give God his leftovers. In the same way, we should give God our best, not the leftovers.

#### The Woman With The Alabaster Box (Luke 7:37-38)

This action was an act of worship. This woman was unashamed in her worship. Her sin did not cause her to run away from God, instead, it made her approach Him in humility and love.

#### The Longing Worshiper (Psalm 63:1-4)

Worship is expressing who God is and what His characteristics are like. Our worship should earnestly long for God.

#### Worship in the Throne Room (Revelation 4:8-11)

This verse paints a powerful picture of the glory and power of God. It expresses His holiness. It shows the living creatures and elders laying themselves down to God. We can follow this same model in our worship to God is above all things because from Him are all things.

#### For Righteousness and Justice (Proverbs 21:3)

This Proverb displays God's heart for worship. God does not want sacrifices of worship that are not backed by a lifestyle that is pleasing to Him. Worship practices are not acceptable if there is no righteousness and justice in the life of the believer.

### Examples of Unacceptable Worship

*These examples teach us to have prudence and reverence in our worship and to check our hearts to be sure that we have pure motives.*

#### Cain's Offering (Genesis 4:3,5,7)

Cain's offering was not the best that he could offer. He didn't joyfully give of his best. God didn't look with favor on this offering because he was withholding from the Lord.

#### Worship of the Golden Calf (Exodus 32:7-8)

In this example the Israelites attribute the power and glory of God to a worthless idol. We should be careful not to give credit where credit is not due. Only God should receive our worship and appreciation for the things He has done.

#### Worship done for people to see (Matthew 23:2 - 5a)

When worshipping, we should be sure that our lifestyle matches what our worship portrays. Our worship should be solely for the Lord, not for others to see.

#### Lying to the Holy Spirit Acts 5:1-2

This was an unacceptable act of worship because it was deceitful and backed with impure motives. Ananias and Sapphira wanted praise from men, but greed caused them to lie and withhold money. We should give with a joyful heart. Our worship should not be for recognition. It should never be focused on selfish motives.



# Why Worship?

*One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple — Psalm 27:4.*

The “one thing” David longs for is intimacy with God and a chance to worship his heavenly Father. Worship was a priority because he understood that we are:

## 1. Created to Worship

In Isaiah, God refers to his people as those who are “*called by my name, whom I created for my glory*” and those “*I formed for myself that they might declare my praise*” (Isaiah 43:7, 21). First Peter 2:9 confirms that you and I were created to worship God: “*But you are a chosen [people], a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light*” (emphasis added).

## 2. Commanded to Worship

The Bible commands us to worship the Lord. David writes, “*You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!*” (Psalm 22:23). Psalm 135:1 implores us, “*Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD.*” The book of Psalms ends with this resounding imperative: “*Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!*” (Psalm 150:6). Worship, therefore, is not optional; it is clearly commanded.

## 3. Called to Worship

As believers, worship is not merely something we do. It is who we are. Paul said, “*I worship the God of our fathers*” (Acts 24:14). Philippians 3:3 points out that true believers are ones who “*worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus.*”

## 4. Compelled to Worship

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. God doesn't need anything; he's God. He delights in our worship, but the truth is, we're the ones who need to worship. Psalm 146 expresses a similar compulsion to worship: “*I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being*” (Psalm 146:2).

W

Wait on the Lord

O

Offer our lives as  
a Living Sacrifice

R

Rest in His  
Presence

S

Sing to Him

H

Humble Ourselves  
Before Him

I

Intimacy  
With God

P

Pleasing to God



## ☰ **Worship Is**

*Excerpted from Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life by Donald Whitney*

### **Worship is focusing on and responding to God**

To worship God means to ascribe the proper worth to God, to magnify His worthiness of praise, or to approach and address God as He is worthy. Notice, for instance, how those around the throne of God in Revelation 4:11 and 5:12 addressed God as “worthy”. Worship often includes words and actions, but it goes beyond them to the focus of the mind and heart. Worship is the God-centered focus and response of the soul.

### **Worship is done in Spirit and in truth**

Only those who have become Christ’s disciples by repentance and faith can truly worship Him. Jesus teaches us in John 4:23-24 “...the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...” We worship God as He is revealed in the Bible, according to the truth of Scripture. Worshiping in spirit and in truth “involves both heart and head — both emotion and thought.

### **Worship is expected both publicly and privately**

The core of the discipline of worship involves developing the habit of faithfully assembling with other Christians where the primary purpose is to worship God. Clearly we cannot be the church if we are isolated [an ever-increasing problem in modern culture]. See (Hebrews 10:24-25).

### **Worship is a discipline to be cultivated**

True worship requires discipline of every believer. We must discipline ourselves to worship. The cultivation of this discipline serves as both “an end and a means.” No higher goal or greater spiritual pleasure exists than focusing on and responding to God. We should not expect to be able to develop the skills of worship in isolation. The development of any discipline, from hitting a golf ball to playing the piano, requires outside help from those with more experience.



HOW DOES GOD REQUIRE THAT  
WE WORSHIP HIM TODAY?  
**DOES IT REALLY MATTER  
HOW I WORSHIP GOD?**

Three things constitute worship that is pleasing in God's sight.

**1. Worship involves a right view of Who God is.**

If we would worship God, we must know who He is. We must acknowledge that He is God. He is All-powerful Creator God who has every right to command our worship.

*Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship. —Revelation 14:7*

And as the One who has loved us and given His life for us, He deserves all worship and praise and adoration we could ever give! He is the One who made this world and rules over it and all that are in it. To acceptably approach God in worship, then, we must acknowledge that God is Ruler over us and our life. He is our God, our King, our Savior, and Judge. And as such, He alone is to have all our worship.

**2. Worship involves a right heart before God.**

God has a lot to say in His Word about our hearts and what makes us right before Him. For it is the heart that determines everything in our walk with God, as well as, whether our worship is pleasing in His sight. Worship is, above all else, a heart matter. Nadab and Abihu failed in their worship of God when they allowed their hearts to be filled with what they thought, what they wanted to do, instead of what God had said. Their hearts were filled with iniquity...their own way. (See Leviticus 10). If we would worship God, we must do it His way. Or, it is not worship.

**3. Worship involves reverential service to God.**

Worship and service go hand in hand. - *You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.*

We worship God when we serve Him as God. Worship is so much more than music or a Sunday morning service. Each morning we worship God when we humbly kneel in prayer before Him and thank Him for all He is and has done in the world and in our own hearts and lives.

(Psalm 95:6) The acts of bowing and kneeling before God are acts of worship we do to show our humility before our God and King. But we also “worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24) as we willingly, and sacrificially, honor the truth of His Word and choose the Spirit's leading over the desire of our flesh.



## LESSONS FROM WORSHIP

Before we can worship in spirit and truth we must have within us the One who is the “Spirit of truth” (John 14:17), that is, the Holy Spirit. He lives only within those who have come to Christ in repentance and faith.

- To worship God in spirit is to worship from the inside out. It also necessitates sincerity in our acts of worship.
- Worship in truth is worship according to the truth of Scripture. We worship God as He is revealed in the Bible
- We must worship in both spirit and truth, with both heart and head, with both emotion and thought.

*Test your reading comprehension by filling in the blanks below.*

- (1) Worship is our \_\_\_\_\_ to the greatness of God.
- (2) Scripture says that true worship begins in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the believer (John 4:23).
- (3) One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I \_\_\_\_\_ that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. Psalm 27:4 ESV
- (4) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your \_\_\_\_\_. Romans 12:1 ESV
- (5) I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 146:2).





## WEEK 5 CHALLENGE

### Challenge #1 Read a Psalm a Day

*Reading a Psalm everyday. Pick a Psalm and while reading, stop at any word or phrase that resonates (name or attribute of God), and use that as a springboard for worship.*

*Psalm 106:1, for example, can prompt us to praise God for his goodness and steadfast love:*

***“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!”***

- Reading a psalm a day can increase your appreciation for all of God’s attributes.
- Reading the Psalms can expand our concept of God, giving us more attributes for which to praise Him. For example, read Psalm 102 and worship the Lord as Eternal God.

***“But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever... Your years have no end” (Psalm 102:12, 27).***

As you read the Psalm ask, what does this Scripture tell me about who God is? (You should work this question into your own routine to ignite your worship.)

### Challenge #2 Meditate on the Names of God

*Meditate worshipfully, start with a specific name or attribute of God revealed in the Bible and then ponder its significance in your life.*

Scripture informs us that meditating on the attributes of God can move us to worship. As David says, ***“My mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night” (Psalm 63:5 – 6).***

We meditate on who God is but also on what God has done. In Psalm 145:5, he wrote these words in praise to his Lord: ***“On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.”*** See also ***“I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds” (Psalm 77:12).*** ***“Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them” (Psalm 111:2).***

### Challenge #3 Write Your Own Psalm

Express worship in your own words. Your original psalm doesn’t have to be wordy or eloquent; it doesn’t even have to rhyme. It just has to be an honest and concise articulation of your thoughts or feelings to God. It can be in one of three categories:

1. A **Psalm of Thanksgiving** express gratitude for who God is and/or something God has done.
2. A **Psalm of Praise** call God’s people to respect, admire, and revere God’s attributes and mighty deeds.
3. **Psalm of Lament** are expressions of deep grief, anger, or sorrow related to personal hardship and crisis. They reflect an honest struggle to make sense of the pain of this world.



*“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. - Psalm 19:14*

Journaling can help lead us into an introspection of our journey with God. Remember that saying by Socrates: “the unexamined life is not worth living.” Journaling is a place where you can record important information to memorize and meditate on. Your journal can be a place to document the works and ways of God in your life. You can include daily events, your relationships, biblical insights and applications, and a list of prayer requests. A journal is one of the best places for charting your progress in the other Spiritual Disciplines and for holding yourself accountable to your goals. There is no right or wrong way to journal. Use the lines below or start a new file on your device and record some meditations for the week.

**NOTES**

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**Coming Next Week:**  
Week 6: Day 36 - 42  
(Nehemiah 4:9-20)  
Learn more about the spiritual disciplines and weekly challenges @ [connectchurch.com/letsbuild](http://connectchurch.com/letsbuild)



# GIVING

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### January 2023

|          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| Income   | \$35,722.00   |
| Expenses | \$73,659.00   |
| Net      | \$ -37,936.00 |

## Ways to Give

Church family we want you to remember you've got options when it comes to giving at Connect.

**Give in person.** You can drop your offering in one of the offering containers at the entrance doors.

**Give online.** With the click of a button you can (1) Schedule your giving (2) Review your giving history (3) Update your contact information and more. Give online at [connectchurch.com/give](https://connectchurch.com/give)

**Give by mail.** You can mail your offering to 401 Southwest Plz. #103, Arlington TX 76016

**Give by text.** Text the word GIVE to **817-677-9700**

So, you've got options when it comes to your giving. However you choose to give we pray that you give with a cheerful heart to our great God.

## Subscribe to the NEWSLETTER



Sign up now to stay informed  
[cnnct.ch/email](https://cnnct.ch/email)

# This week AT CONNECT



## Discipleship Classes Sundays at 9:00 AM

Women's Bible Study | Kitchen Conf. Room  
Men's Bible Study | Men at Arms  
Students | Grades 7-12 | The Hub  
Deep Dive Bible Study | Room 130  
Preschool | 6 weeks - 5 years old | Kids Room  
For more info visit: [cnnct.ch/disciple](https://cnnct.ch/disciple)



## Wednesday Prayer Call

Join us for the morning prayer call  
**Wednesday 7:00 - 7:15AM**  
Dial in number: **(669) 275-1250**



## TeamKID

Join TeamKID during for a fun, high-energy, bible and mission based games and activities.  
**Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:30pm**



## Recharge

This meeting time is designed for food, fun, hang out while also providing deep, biblical learning.  
**Wednesday 6:00 - 7:30pm**



## College Night

Join us during Fall and Spring semesters at Jared and Christina's home for dinner, great, fellowship, and engaging Bible study. **Thursday 6:30**



## Life Groups

Grace-centered community is one of the core values of Connect Church. Life Groups provide the opportunity for us to build a stronger foundation for our faith, relationships, and our families Visit [connectchurch.com/lifegroups](https://connectchurch.com/lifegroups) for more info.



ConnectChurch



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