

# Protect Your Aura

2025-05-18 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



## Matthew 28

### FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

#### WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Nehemiah was rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem when his enemies kept inviting him to come down for a meeting. Their real goal was to stall the work. Four times he gave the same answer: I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Pastor Matt was answering a question about how to be there for someone without becoming them. His answer: God has given every one of us a calling, the oxygen mask goes on you first, and some of the people pulling you off the wall do not even know they are doing it. One of them was a priest.

### To get started

- What is something you had to say no to so you could finish something more important?

### Looking back at the message

'Cannot come down' is the line. Test whether it sounds wise or arrogant to the group.

- 1 People kept inviting Nehemiah off the wall, and four times he said the same thing: I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Does that answer sound strong to you or stubborn, and what makes the difference?
- 2 Pastor Matt said your best help to other people comes after you obey what God asked you to do, not while you keep putting it off. What do you think of that?
- 3 One of the people trying to scare Nehemiah off the wall was a priest, someone who should have been on his side. What does it add that the pressure came from a religious insider? OPTIONAL

### Looking at the passage

Read Nehemiah 6:1-9 and 10-14 aloud.

- 4 Read Nehemiah 6:2-3. What is the invitation, and what is Nehemiah's answer?
- 5 Verse 2 says the invitation was really a plan to hurt him. How do you think he could tell?
- 6 In verses 10-13, who tries to scare him, and what makes that kind of pressure harder to spot?
- 7 Read Matthew 28:19-20. What job does Jesus give to every believer, not just leaders?

OPTIONAL

## Bringing it home

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This can be misused to justify avoiding people. Guard against that.

- 8 How do you tell the difference between a distraction and a person who truly needs you?
- 9 What is the wall God has you building right now? Say it in your own words.
- 10 Where have you come down off your wall lately, letting something God gave you sit unfinished for the sake of a smaller thing?
- 11 Who in your life might be pulling you away from something God asked of you without meaning to? OPTIONAL

## The group together

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The risk here is using calling as a reason to be unavailable. Name it.

- 12 How could staying on your wall get twisted into an excuse to avoid people who are hard work?
- 13 How can this group help each other protect what God has assigned without anyone getting self-important?
- 14 What is one thing this group could stop doing so it can do something better?

### BEFORE YOU FINISH

What would you have to say no to this month in order to stay on what God has given you?

## You might pray about

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- For clarity about what God has actually asked of us
- For discernment between distraction and genuine need
- For those being pulled away by people they love
- For work finished rather than abandoned