

## Getting others to play their part

**Vision:** To reflect on the importance of getting all kinds of people to play their part in transformation, including those in power, and how we can get them to take responsibility

### **Nehemiah 2: 1-10 – partnering with those in power**

#### **Resource: Mosaic creative**

Show a video creatively telling the story: <https://youtu.be/kQbc-rmojNs> (9 mins)

#### **Questions to discuss:**

1. What issue does Nehemiah see needs tackling and how does he show he is taking responsibility and ready to play his part in it?
2. How does the king respond? What is it about Nehemiah's attitude and behaviour that makes the King react like this?
3. What can we learn from the way that Nehemiah approached the king?

Look through the story as it unfolds in **Nehemiah 2: 11 – 4: 43**

4. Who else helps and hinders the building of the wall? List the different groups and how Nehemiah deals with them?
5. What issue are we facing in our church and community where we need others to play their part? What can we learn from Nehemiah to help us galvanise them?

#### **Act of Love**

Pray and reflect together about how, as a group or church, you can 'speak up' for those whose rights are ignored in your community or more widely. What issue is God calling us to address and who can we partner with or lobby to address whatever wrong they are suffering and to ensure that in future they will be able to speak up for themselves and be heard.

#### **Going deeper:**

Watch this video to hear about UK experience of getting government to play their part: <https://youtu.be/9Shcw2T8rg0> (6:52 mins)

Venn diagram (using cut-out circles or drawing them): see example overleaf

- a) On a flip chart or large paper, draw/ place a large circle to represent your community or the specific group within the community with whom we work as a group or church.
- b) Brainstorm all the different groups that have influence over them. Choose/ draw a circle to represent them. The size of the circle should correspond to how important/ influential they are on community life. The distance from the 'community circle' and other stakeholder circles should represent the level of contact between them.
- c) Reflect on the relationships between them to identify which can be partners, who may hinder action (and plan how to prevent this) and who just needs to be informed of actions



**Summary for facilitator:**

Nehemiah takes responsibility for the issue and convinces the king that he is willing to take action himself. His personal commitment and willingness to invest everything he has (probably leaving his home and most of his possessions behind) assures the king that the help he gives will be used for the right reasons. Nehemiah is not lazy or passive. He shows the king that he will do everything in his power. Nehemiah approaches the king very cleverly. He prays for the words to say. He addresses the king respectfully. He explains the situation clearly and his requests are very specific, not general.

Nehemiah also gets the Jewish leaders and officials to understand the situation they are in and get involved. He identifies the gifts of priests, families, servants, goldsmiths, merchants etc and gets them all playing their part. When he faces opposition, he prays and trusts God, encouraging them not to give up – and also plans strategically how they can keep them from interfering and continue with their work.