

# Saying “Yes” to God

## Nehemiah 2

Nehemiah 2 tells the story of returning post-exile Jews who say “Yes” to Nehemiah’s vision to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Becoming a Christian is saying “Yes” to Jesus invitation to “Follow me”. All growth happens when we say yes to him.

Saying yes to Jesus is a heart attitude. He won’t pile insurmountable burdens onto us when we do. His yoke is easy and his burden light”. Saying yes is saying yes to life in all its fullness.

Let’s observe the qualities of people who say “Yes” to God. They have three characteristics:

**1. Faithful.** They’re there. They’ve turned up! They’ve made a tough journey back home and they’re listening to Nehemiah.

These days the word faithful sounds kind of boring. We love innovation and change in preference to steady faithfulness. But God loves it!

**2. Available.** Good things happen when we make ourselves available. In Ezra 2 a previous group of returning exiles had been admonished by God through Haggai the prophet: “You live in your panelled houses while the house of God remains a ruin”.

The busyness of our own lives and family and work can leave us with no availability for God and his purposes and his house (the church).

**3. Teachable.** They listened to Nehemiah. They took it to heart.

We live in a world of anxiety-inducing news overload- often leaving us paralysed and unresponsive. Jesus said “Be careful how you hear” (Luke 18).

What is Jesus saying that really matters?

- That he will come again to judge the living and the dead (Acts 10:42)
- That he is building his church (Matthew 18).
- That he is the way truth and life (John 14:6) and the only way to the Father.

How we respond is all important

Finally they said Yes together. In community. We need one another to spur us on to say Yes to God again and again!

## Questions

1. When did you first say Yes to God? Share that moment

2. Faithful: What gifts/habits do you have in your life that feel kind of boring but are actually vital to you following Jesus?
3. Available: Post lockdown many are feeling over-busy. Does your schedule allow for God-moments, interruptions and space for God to redirect?  
What are the dangers of not making availability?
4. Teachable: Does information and news make you tend towards action or anxiety/paralysis? How can you safeguard channels for God to speak through when he wants?
5. Yes, together. Who has helped you to say Yes to Jesus recently? Who have you helped?