Introduction
The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted deep failures in our world. Moving forwards, we have the chance to reimagine a future that truly recognises the worth and dignity of every individual. This guide seeks to help you be part of that.

Nehemiah and the rebuilding of Jerusalem
The broken state of the world has been exposed to us. But it has also broken-down walls that existed before – walls that kept others out individually, communally or nationally.

The book of Nehemiah stands to guide us well in our response to today's broken world. While living comfortably in exile and working in the King's palace, he heard about the state of his people and the city of Jerusalem – that they were deeply discouraged, and the walls of Jerusalem had broken down.

Nehemiah responded with lament.

He repented of the wrongdoings of his people. Even though he was not directly responsible, he shared the responsibility for Jerusalem's demise.
He responded to the situation. Even though he lived in exile, Nehemiah found a way to act starting from where he was. He may have been in exile and a servant of the King, but he boldly asked for help before the King, who responded favourably.

He participated in the rebuilding of the wall. Nehemiah took personal interest and mobilised the people to rebuild the wall. He left the comfort of the palace and returned to the ruined land.

Discern together
Christians have often been central to moments of profound social renewal, from the abolition of the slave trade to the debt jubilee. We can play a huge role speaking prophetically to society at large, casting a vision of a better world and encouraging or challenging those in power.

So, taking Nehemiah's actions as a guide, what is our role as Christians and as the church in mending a broken world?

In this guide we invite you with your family, your church and your community, to explore how we will all play our part in building back from the coronavirus pandemic – with love and justice at the heart of all we do.
**Step 1: Read**
Set up a reading group and ask everyone to individually read the Building Back with Justice web article. Reflect upon the issues it raises, your own experiences of the pandemic, and the teachings of Nehemiah.

You might want to use some prompts to help you reflect:

- What most strikes you and why?
- Where do you see hope and opportunity for change in your community?
- How do the experiences and concepts compare with your experience of the pandemic?

**Step 2: Gather**
Gather together, maybe on Zoom or in an outdoor space following appropriate social distancing measures. It could be with your family, household, friends or small church group.

- Share your experiences and feelings over the past few months (what’s been most challenging? where have you found joy or inspiration?).
- Share your reflections of the web article (maybe using the same prompts as above).
- Share your hopes and dreams for the ‘new normal’.

**Step 3: Discuss**
Discuss what you can do

- Share your thoughts on the things you’d like to do individually.
- Share your thoughts on the things you could do collectively.
- Share your thoughts on the role of the church at large and what you can do to influence your church (locally, regionally or nationally).

**Step 4: Pray**
Pray for the health of people living in poverty at greatest risk from the pandemic, for compassion for each other as you adapt to these unprecedented times, and for wisdom for global leaders as they navigate the way forward.

---

**What next?**
Having discerned together and discussed what you and your church can do, the next step is to act. If you need any support developing an action plan or building on your ideas, you can use the resources from Christian Aid's campaigns toolkit or contact the campaigns and activism team at campaigns@christian-aid.org

**Contact us**
Christian Aid Campaigns
35-41 Lower Marsh
London
SE1 7RL

T: 020 7620 4444
E: campaigns@christian-aid.org
W: caid.org.uk/campaigns

---

Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance. Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851 Scot charity no. SC039150 Company no. 5171525 Christian Aid Ireland: Ni charity no. NIC101631 Company no. NI059154 and ROI charity no. 20014162 Company no. 426928. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. © Christian Aid