

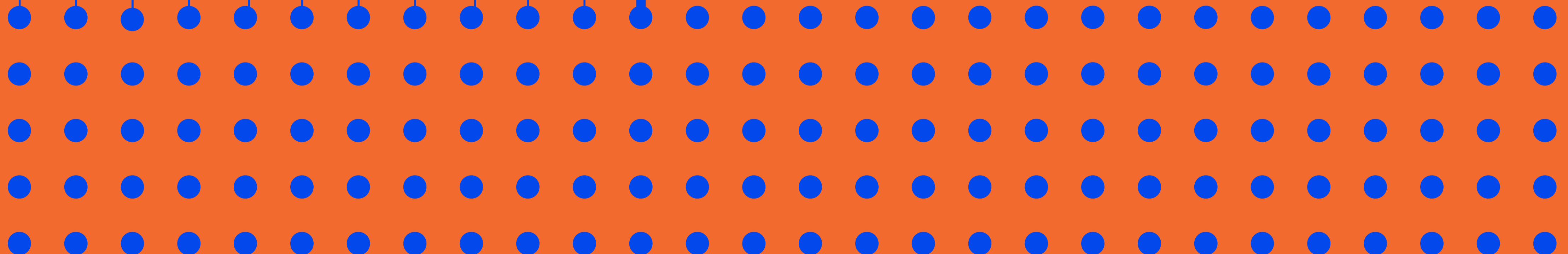
Doing outreach the Nehemiah way

Exploring what it
means to be a
community focused
on mission

Division and
Denial

Nehemiah 5

Sunday_14_February_2021



Chicago Bulls

1990s
internal
division



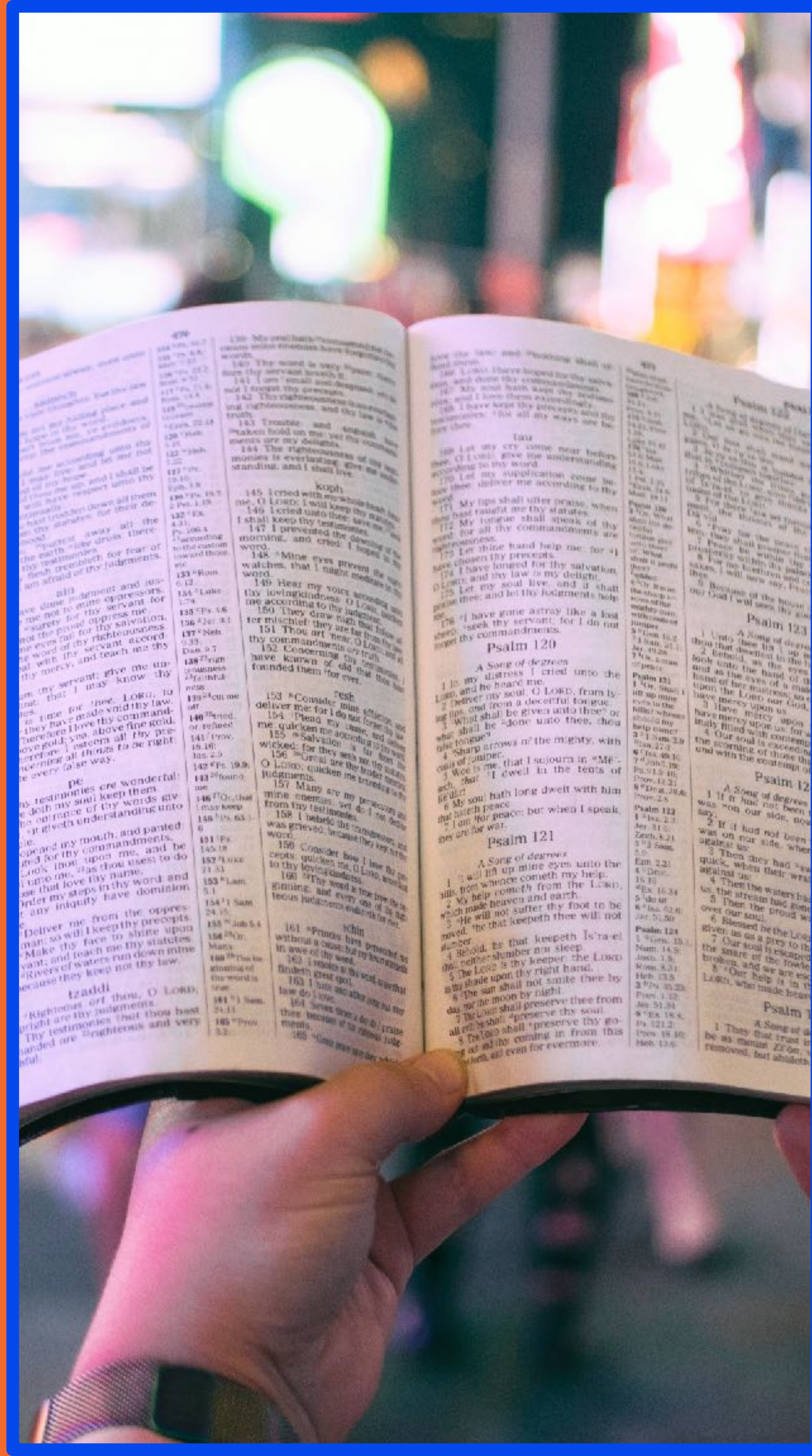
1. THE PROBLEM

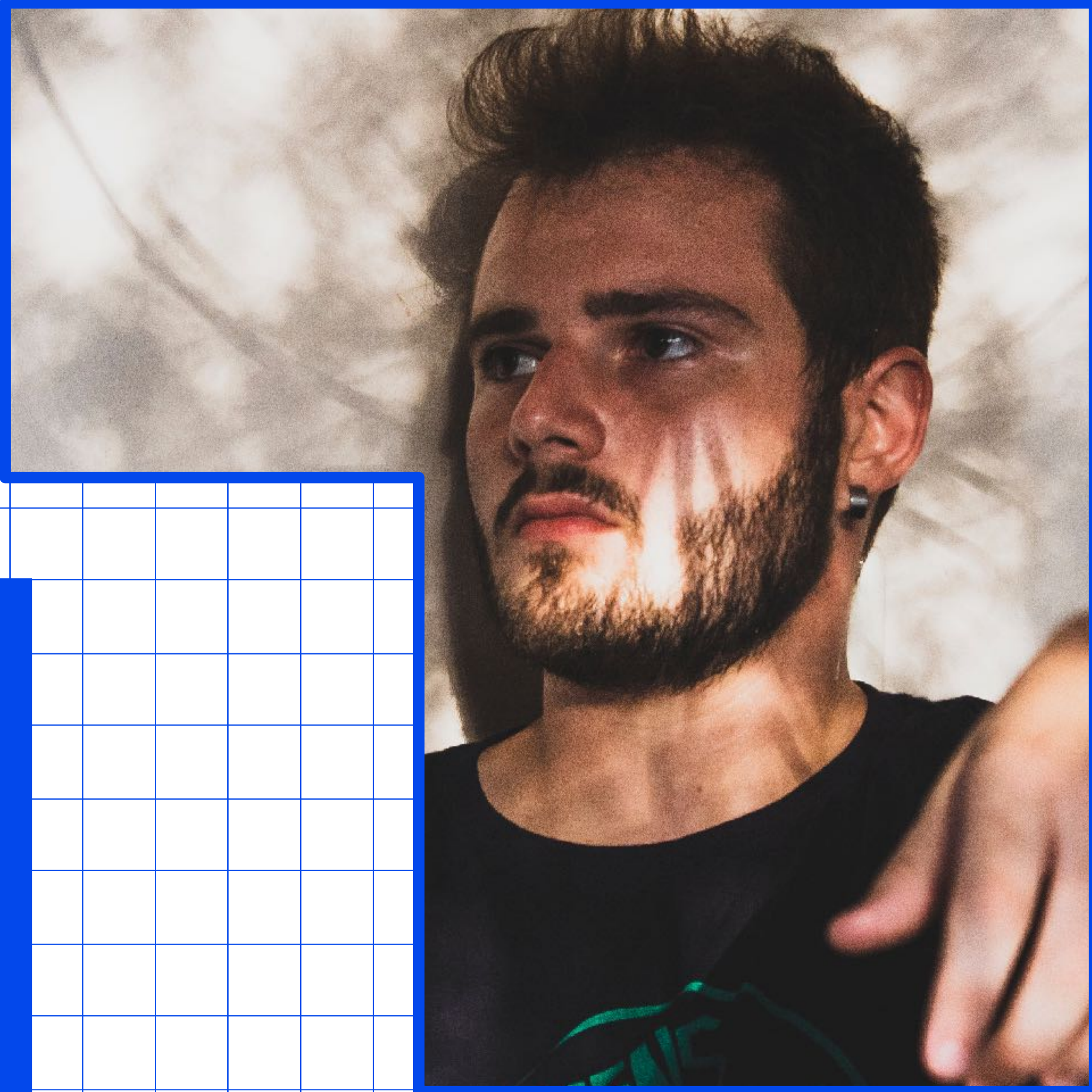
Injustice



Nehemiah 5:1

Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews.

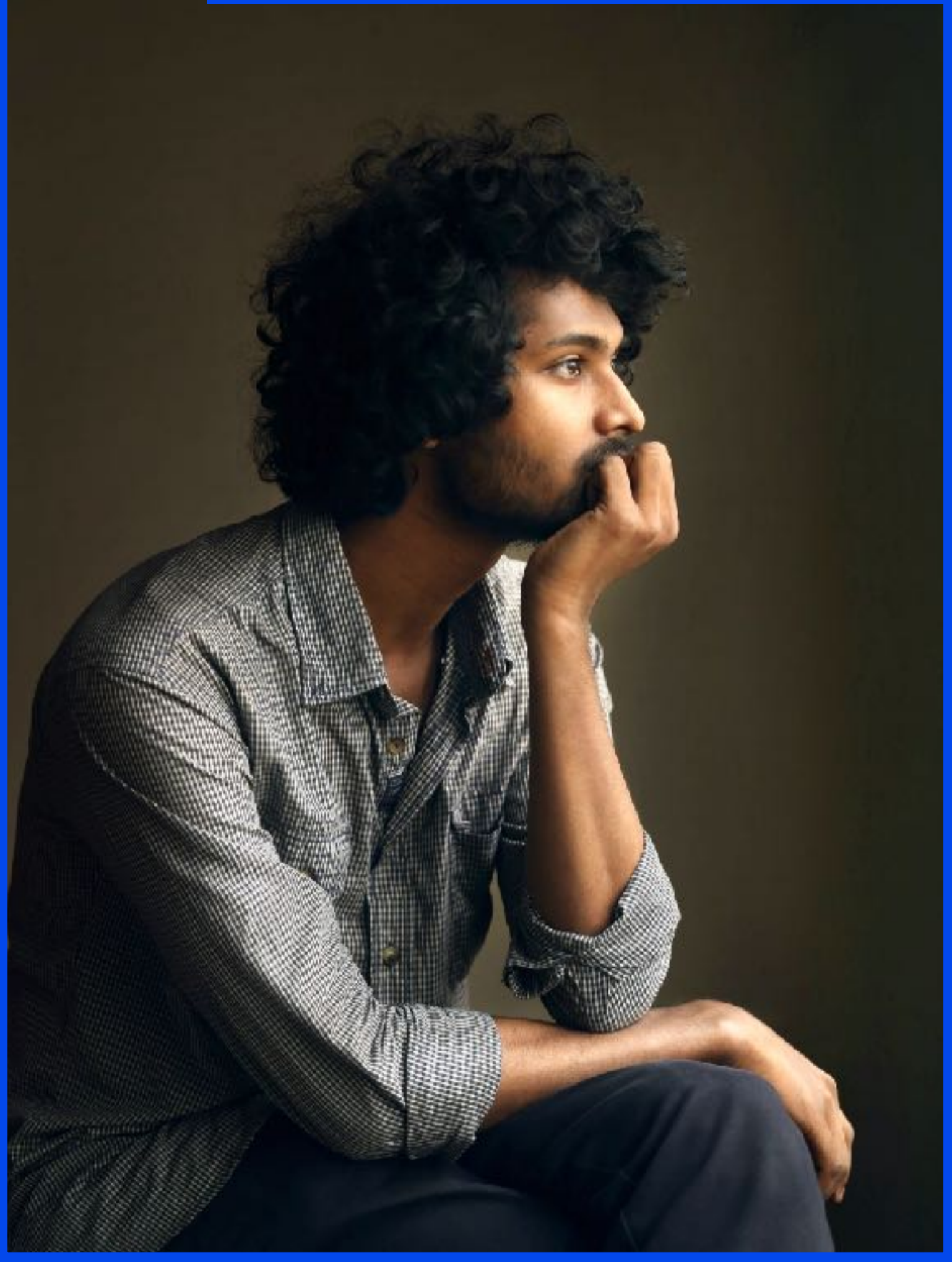
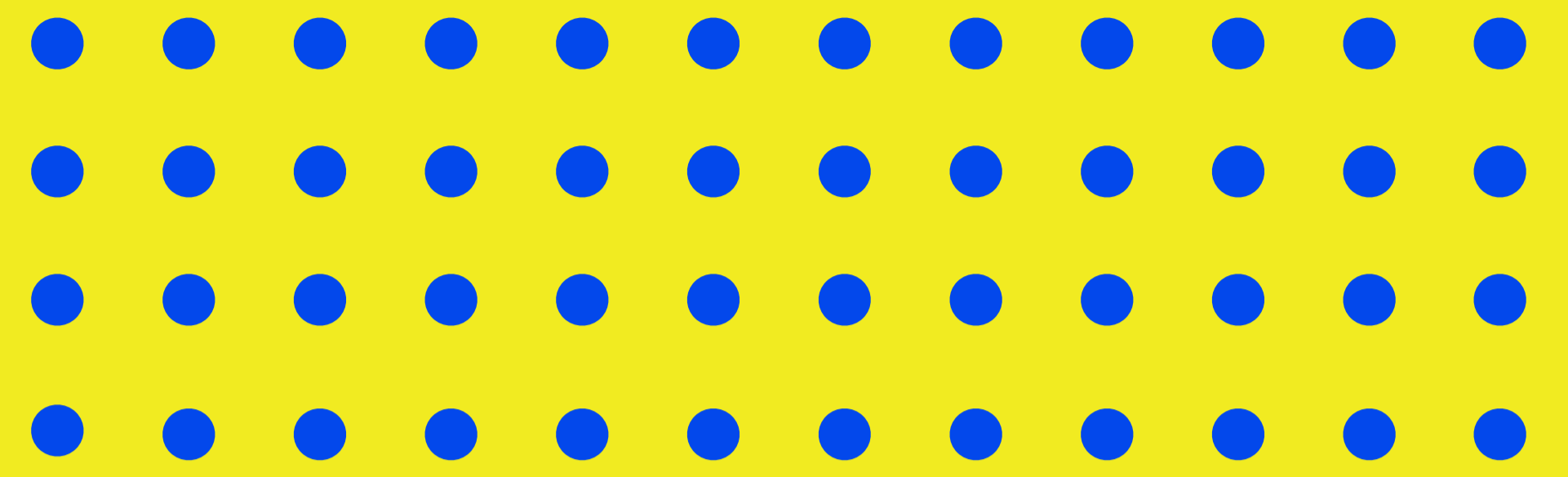




2. THE REACTION

Anger & Ponder

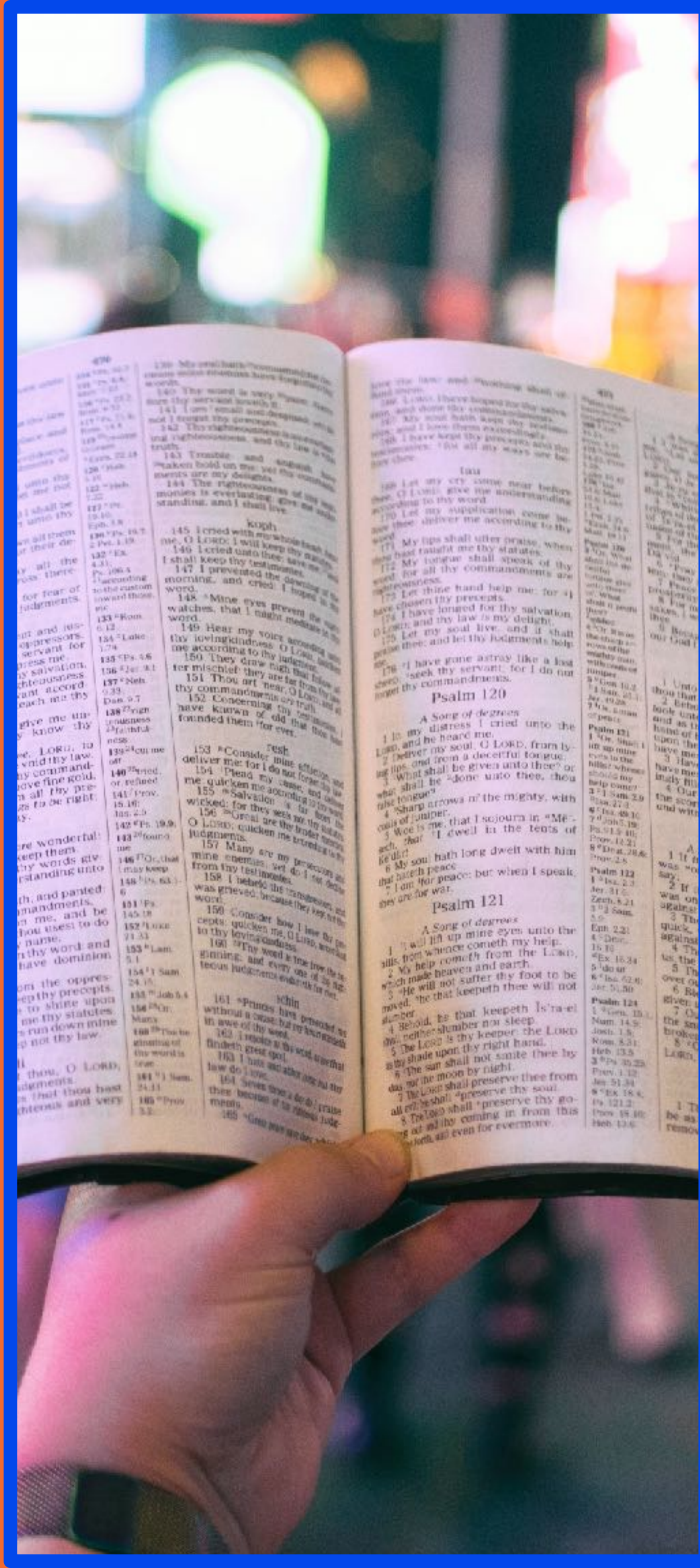
Ponder



Nehemiah is angry...
but crucially, he
immediately
pauses... to ponder.

Nehemiah 5:6-7

When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, "You are charging your own people interest!" So I called together a large meeting to deal with them.



3. THE RESPONSE

Denied himself



Nehemiah's response

Denies himself

"I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest!"
Nehemiah 5:10

More self denial

Neh. 5:14-16



14 Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year—twelve years—**neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor.** 15 But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. **But out of reverence for God I did not act like that.** 16 Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; **we did not acquire any land.**



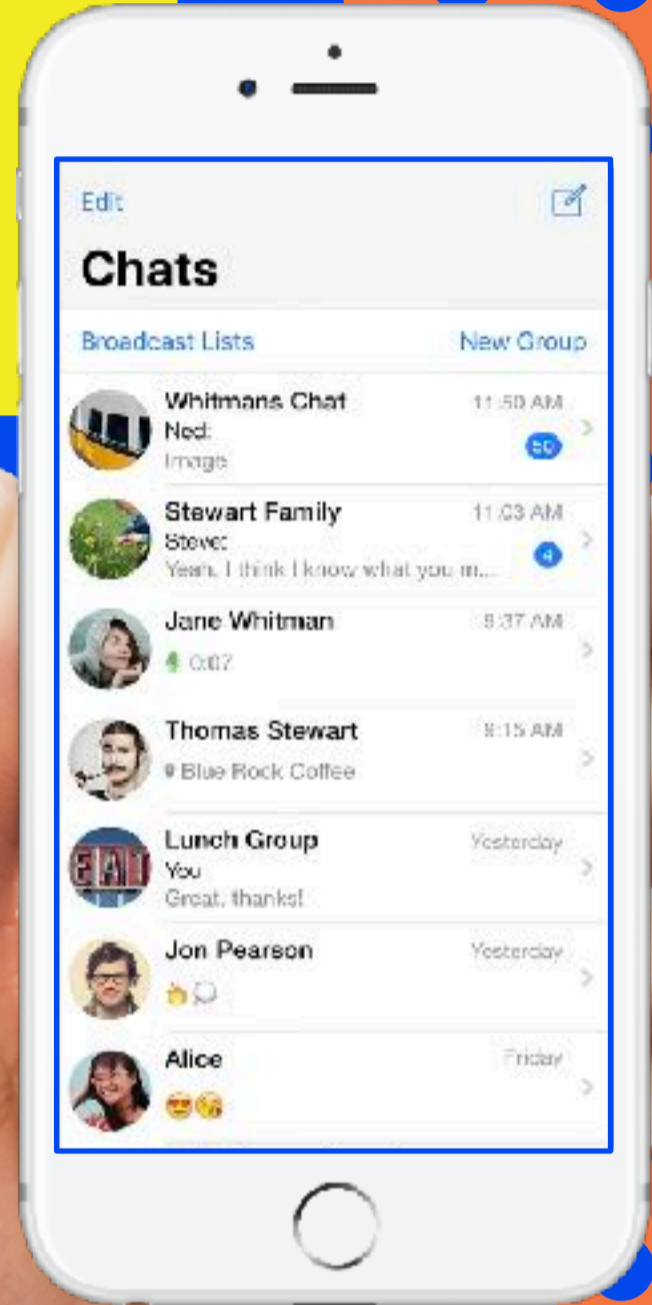
Yet more self-denial

Mehemiah 5:17-19

17 Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. 18 Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people.

19 Remember me with favour, my God, for all I have done for these people.

Love is...



What does
true love
involve?

Self-denial

**Jesus: self-
denying, self-
sacrificing love.**



**Ultimate
self-denial**

**Nehemiah
ch5**

**Jesus
Christ**

**The
Cross**

Principle of Neh. 5
**Deny yourself to avoid
division, and devote
yourself to God's work**

QUESTIONS

A

What sacrifices are you making for the sake of the gospel?

B

What action are you taking to prevent division?

C

How will you deny yourself so the Good News can be proclaimed?

D

Are you devoting yourself to the work of outreach, like Nehemiah devoted himself to the work of rebuilding?

Nehemiah
Chapter 5