

NEHEMIAH

when love dares
you to move

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Week 1 Nehemiah 1:1-11 – Sept. 5, 2021

Helpful Resources

Check out one or more of these helpful overview videos of Nehemiah:

1) <https://bit.ly/1Nehemiah>; 2) <https://bit.ly/2Nehemiah>; 3) <https://bit.ly/3Nehemiah3>.

Be Determined by Warren Wiersbe - <https://bit.ly/DeterminedBe>

Nehemiah: LifeGuide Bible Studies by Don Fields - <https://bit.ly/DonFields>

Allow God to speak to you through his written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!



KNOW:

- Has anyone in the group ever been to Israel and seen the wall of Jerusalem? What impression did it make on you? If no one has, what thoughts and/or emotions do you have when you see very old architecture in person?
- What, if anything, makes you cry? When was the last time you cried? What is the purpose of crying? What is the emotion that prompts crying?
- What do you think are some of the biggest challenges the church is facing today?
- What do you know about the book of Nehemiah? How much have you interacted with this story?
- When you receive news that disappoints you, how do you normally react? Do all people respond the same way in their disappointment? Why or why not?
- Share about an experience or news that you received where your first reaction was to go to God in prayer. What was the situation? What did you pray? How did God answer that prayer?
- Have you practiced fasting in your life? What was the motivation? Describe that experience.



GROW:

- Read Nehemiah 1:1-11. We're jumping into the story long after Israel had sinned, and God handed them over into exile with Babylon. The tension in the prayer is between God's faithfulness and Israel's unfaithfulness. Why do you think Nehemiah starts with repentance, instead of pleading for God to change circumstances?
- As you read the first three verses of Nehemiah, describe the situation. What information do you see about Nehemiah? What information do you see about the Jews living in Jerusalem?
- Read Nehemiah's prayer in verses 4-11. What do you learn about God in this prayer? What does Nehemiah acknowledge about himself and his people in the prayer?
- Describe the heart-posture Nehemiah takes as he prays to God.
- We learn of God's great love for us on all pages of scripture – Old and New Testaments. Because of our sin, it is true that God would have every right to be disappointed with us. Instead, how does God respond to our sin? Does his heart break or is he a tyrant?
- The purpose of Nehemiah's prayer does not appear to be, "Oh God please fix this." Why would it be that Nehemiah would begin with confession rather than request? What is Nehemiah asking the Lord to do in his prayer?



SHOW:

- This chapter begins the story of God stirring Nehemiah's heart to lead people to faithfulness. What are some ways that you can share what God has done in your life with someone else?
- Nehemiah's heart was broken by the news he learned. But rather than be inwardly focused, he immediately turned to God in prayer. Can you share current disappointments or sinful situations you know of which need to be prayed for? This may be a good time to come beside each other in specific prayer.
- Spend some time in prayer as a group. Pray for our city and our church. Pray for God to move and build His kingdom. Ask Him to lead your heart to live in a way that gives Him glory by leading others to Him.
- Pray for the church and believers around the world. Specifically, pray for those in Afghanistan and Haiti. What other areas of the world do you know where Christians are struggling?
- Even as Christians, it is tempting to turn our "prayers" for others' sin into gossip and judgmental attitudes. Describe the language and attitudes of a humble Christian who is truly heartbroken for sin.
- Do you find it easy/natural to take your disappointments to God – or do you more often blame God when you are disappointed? How should we respond as Christ-followers to disappointments, hurts, and setbacks in our lives?