

SERMON SERIES



NEHEMIAH

RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

STUDY GUIDE • NEHEMIAH 1

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**HOW
BREAKTHROUGHS
HAPPEN**

NEHEMIAH 1:1-11

WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus

Have members share how they usually pray (i.e., if they have a pattern, if they have a prayer list or journal, etc.) and their prayer habits.

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- Great is Thy Faithfulness
- Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
- Way Maker

WORD: Understanding the Word

LESSON AIM

Members will reflect upon their lives to see:

1. How they can praise God for how He has been working in them, through them, and around them.
2. If there are areas where they need to repent and ask God for forgiveness.
3. What promises of God they can cling to in their circumstances.

INTRODUCTION

In the time of Nehemiah, God punished Israel and Judah for their idolatry and exiled them to Assyria and Babylon. Nehemiah, now living far from Jerusalem, wanted to hear news about the city and its inhabitants. God arranged it so that he would get in touch with people who just came from Jerusalem. When he heard of their dire condition, he prayed to God. Let's see what we can learn from Nehemiah's prayer about God's character and how we can pattern our prayers from his example.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. What were the state of Jerusalem and the people living there? (vv. 1-3)
2. What was Nehemiah's reaction to the news shared by Hanani and the people with him? (v. 4)
3. How did Nehemiah describe God in his prayer? (v. 5)
4. How did Nehemiah approach God in his prayer? (v. 6-7)
5. What promise of God did Nehemiah recall? (vv. 8-10)
How is this connected to the situation of Jerusalem and the people living there?
6. What request did Nehemiah present to God in his prayer?
What was Nehemiah's job? (v. 11)

WORD: Understanding the Word

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. We saw how Nehemiah described God in his prayer.
What does this tell us about God?
2. Nehemiah approached God by first confessing the sin of the nation.
Why do you think he approached God in this manner?
3. Nehemiah recalled God's promise to His people when he prayed.
Why do you think he did that? Surely God doesn't need to be reminded of His promise.
4. Why do you think Nehemiah mentioned his job in the last sentence of the chapter? Do you think there is a connection between God's plan for the future and where God placed Nehemiah?

WALK: Applying the Word

APPLICATIONS

- ADULTS -

1. How do you see God's characteristics as described by Nehemiah displayed today? Whenever you pray, take time to praise God for who he is and what he is doing in, through, and around you.
2. Nehemiah approached God by first confessing his sins. How do you approach God when you pray? Remember to confess your sins to God when you pray.
3. Nehemiah recalled God's promises when he prayed because he knew that God is faithful. What promises of God have you been holding onto recently?

- YOUTH -

1. Confession is integral to Nehemiah's prayer. What are some of the reasons why it can be hard to confess our sins to God?
2. Nehemiah understandably wept and mourned for days when he heard the news concerning Jerusalem. What particular things in your life right now are leading you to grieve and mourn?
3. Nehemiah was burdened for something that concerned God and His people, but not necessarily concerning Nehemiah's personal life in the palace. What can we do to be more concerned about what is happening outside our circle of influence?

WALK: Applying the Word

APPLICATIONS

- CHILDREN -

1. Have you ever experienced a sad moment in your life just like Nehemiah? What was it? How did God help you?
2. How is your prayer time or talk with God? Do you share your problems and sad moments with the Lord?
3. What have you noticed about the pandemic affecting our country and the world? Let's take time to pray for the situation in our country and the world.

- COMMUNAL -

1. How are God's characteristics (his faithfulness, steadfast love, etc.) visible in our immediate community, church, and nation?
2. Nehemiah saw how Israel was disobedient to God and repented for the nation's disobedience. What are some things we should repent of as a church and as a nation?
3. Where has God placed you in the community? How can you contribute to His kingdom where He has placed you?




- GLOBAL -

1. Our world is gradually becoming more self-centered. Many people are materialistic. Personal preference or choice is valued over principles. What are some things we can do to try to stem the tide or turn it over?
2. Often, we read news of what is happening in the world that causes us to feel saddened, yet not necessarily lead us to pray. What can we do to respond to news with prayer and fasting more often?
3. When Nehemiah heard about the state of Jerusalem's walls, he had concern for his fellow people. What are some concerns you have heard about Christians around the world that you need to pray for?



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