

SERMON SERIES



NEHEMIAH

RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

STUDY GUIDE • NEHEMIAH 2

SERMON SERIES



NEHEMIAH

RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

STUDY GUIDE • NEHEMIAH 2

CONTENTS

WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus 1

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God 1

WORD: Understanding the Word

Lesson Aim 2

Introduction 2

What does the Bible say?..... 2

What does it mean?..... 3

WALK: APPLYING THE WORD

Applications

• Adults 4

• Youth 4

• Children 4

• Communal 5

• Global 5

THE OPEN SECRET OF SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY

NEHEMIAH 2:1-20

WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:
Have members share one thing that they are passionate about. What is it that makes them burn with passion toward it?

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- God will Make a Way
- Our God
- Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus

WORD: Understanding the Word

LESSON AIM

1. Members will discover that God accomplishes His will at His appointed time.
2. Members will be ready to face opposition when pursuing God's will.
3. Members will place their hope in God when pursuing God's will.

INTRODUCTION

It has been four months since Nehemiah heard the news about Jerusalem. God placed a burden in his heart for His city. He had been fasting and praying to God for the rebuilding of Jerusalem. The time has come for God to answer Nehemiah's prayers. But it is not smooth sailing. Let us learn how we can pursue God's will in our lives and what to expect when we do so.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. What month did Nehemiah mention at the beginning of the chapter? (v. 1) Compare this with the month mentioned in chapter one.*
2. What was Nehemiah's reaction when the king asked him why he was sad? (vv. 2-3)
3. What was Nehemiah's immediate reaction when the king asked him what he wanted? (v. 4)
4. What can we learn about Nehemiah from his response to the king? (vv. 5-8)
5. What is the reason why the king granted Nehemiah's requests? (v. 8)
6. How did the people surrounding Jerusalem react to Nehemiah's arrival? (vv. 9-10)

* In chapter one, Nehemiah learned of the state of Jerusalem in the month of Chislev. This month corresponds to somewhere around November or December in our calendar. Chapter two mentions the month of Nisan. This month corresponds to somewhere around March and April in our calendar.

WORD: Understanding the Word

7. Why do you think Nehemiah discreetly inspected the walls of Jerusalem? (vv. 11-16)
8. How did Nehemiah encourage the people to build the wall of Jerusalem? (vv. 17-18)
9. How did Nehemiah respond to the taunts of Sanballat and company? (vv. 19-20)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. We saw the time difference between chapters one and two. Three to four months have passed since Nehemiah started praying about Jerusalem. It was only then when he began to witness God answering his prayers. What can we learn from this concerning our prayer requests?
2. Nehemiah responded to the king's question with a quick prayer to God before answering. It was evident from his answer that he had planned things out already. What does his immediate response tell us about him?
3. According to Nehemiah, God's hand was upon him, which was why the king granted his request. Read Proverbs 21:1. What can we learn about God and His will from these passages?
4. Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arab were opposed to the rebuilding of Jerusalem. From this, what can we learn about opposition to God's plans? **
5. Nehemiah inspected the wall of Jerusalem before commencing work on it. He gathered information before taking action. What principle can we learn from his example?
6. Nehemiah encouraged the people into action by showing them their present predicament and revealing how God is at work. Nehemiah didn't stop when faced with opposition because he had faith that God will make them succeed. If we are to be encouraged to do something, where should we be placing our hope in?

** This isn't the first time the Jews encountered opposition in the rebuilding of Jerusalem. Ezra 4 records opposition to the rebuilding of the temple. Satan has been trying to oppose God since the beginning of time. He continues to oppose God even now and will continue in the future until his ultimate defeat as prophesied in Revelation.

WALK: Applying the Word

APPLICATIONS

- CHILDREN -

1. What is your dream when you grow older? Have you been praying to God about this? What can you do right now in preparation?
2. What do you do when God answers your prayers? What should you do next?
3. How do you react when people make fun of you or what you are doing? How can God help you deal with this?

- YOUTH -

1. How do you see yourself contributing to God's plan in your life, your family, or church?
2. How do you obey God? When God tells you to do something, like love your family, how do you actually carry out your obedience practically?
3. Have you encountered difficult hurdles in achieving your goals? How did you react to these challenges? Do you think God is teaching you something through this experience?

- ADULTS -

1. Nehemiah spent four months praying for the walls of Jerusalem to be rebuilt. Is there something you've been asking of God for a long time already?
2. Share with the group any opposition or difficulties you have in trying to obey God. How are you responding to this?
3. Where do you tend to place your trust when accomplishing something? What can you do to develop your trust in God?

WALK: Applying the Word

- COMMUNAL -

1. Has God placed a burden on you to help out, assist, or build something that would benefit your immediate communities (e.g. struggling and needy church members, or homeless people in your city or barangay)? If so, share with the group how God would help you accomplish this.
2. Learning from Nehemiah's example on how he interacted with Sanballat and Tobiah, how should Christians today exhibit Christ-likeness when we interact with people who try to discredit or discourage us?
3. Nehemiah saw the need and acted on it through God's guidance; Sanballat, Tobiah & Geshem saw the problems and the impossibilities of the task. Take a moment to search our hearts as a church, where are we this time in pursuing God's will in our lives. Are we like Nehemiah, who sees the possibilities because he believes God will give him success; or just like the three officials, who sees that nothing can be done and accomplished?




- GLOBAL -

1. Nehemiah was careful in his interaction with King Artaxerxes, and this led to the king aiding him fulfill God's plans. What are some principles that we can learn from Nehemiah's conversation with king Artaxerxes? How can followers of Christ interact with people who have different worldviews or belief systems to accomplish God's work?
2. Nehemiah was able to encourage the Jews living in Jerusalem to take part in the work of rebuilding Jerusalem's walls. How can Christians encourage fellow members of the body of Christ who live in other parts of the world?
3. The pandemic brought us to hope for a better tomorrow, yet the true hope is in Christ Jesus alone. Do our lives reflect this HOPE? How can we show others this truth? What practical ways can we do to give hope to the people around us who are in need?



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

 (02) 8632 1357  Greenhills Christian Fellowship  GCF Main