



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, that wine was before him, and I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. 2 So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart." Then I was very much afraid. 3 I said to the king, "Let the king live forever. Why should my face not be sad when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?" 4 Then the king said to me, "What would you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 I said to the king, "If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it." 6 Then the king said to me, the queen sitting beside him, "How long will your journey be, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me, and I gave him a definite time. 7 And I said to the king, "If it please the king, let letters be given me for the governors of the provinces beyond the River, that they may allow me to pass through until I come to Judah, 8 and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress which is by the temple, for the wall of the city and for the house to which I will go." And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was on me.





REFLECT/CONNECT

These questions provide for individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- What's your favorite winter memory?
- If you could ask for one thing from a person in authority (i.e. boss, political leader, etc.), what would it be and how would you approach it?



GROW IN THE WORD

These questions are designed to guide individual study and foster spiritual conversation in a group.

1. Four months after mourning and praying over Jerusalem, Nehemiah had opportunity to share his burden before the Persian king Artaxerxes. Despite the risk and fear involved in showing sadness before the king, Nehemiah expressed his concerns for his city. The king gave Nehemiah the chance to make a request before him (v. 1-4).
 - What stands out to you about Nehemiah's interaction with the Persian king?
 - Why do you think Nehemiah paused to pray before answering the king? See also Proverbs 21:1; Philippians 4:6.
 - Like Nehemiah, in what ways can you show vulnerability, take courage, and rely on God in your season of life?



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2. Nehemiah boldly requested the opportunity to return to his home and rebuild it. Not only did Nehemiah request permission to return home, but he also asked for resources and protection for the journey. The king granted all that Nehemiah requested of him (v. 5-8).
 - How does Nehemiah's specific and strategic request reflect both his preparation and his faith?
 - What role did God play in the success of Nehemiah's efforts? Take note of verse 8 and Proverbs 16:9.
 - What do you believe God is leading you to receive and apply from this passage? Take a moment to seek the Lord in prayer.

Upcoming Events



MEN'S CONNECTION BREAKFAST | SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

Bring a friend and join us for breakfast and coffee as we connect with others, learn about what's new in the ministry, and cultivate our relationship with God!

WORSHIP NIGHT | JANUARY 15

We are ready to kick off our spring semester with an evening of worship, prayer, and fellowship! We invite you to bring a friend and look forward to spending time with you as we worship our amazing God!