



📍 **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.

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachabiah. Now it happened in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capital, 2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, and some men from Judah came; and I asked them about the Jews who had escaped and had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and disgrace, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates have been burned with fire." 4 Now when I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. 5 I said, "Please, Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps the covenant and faithfulness for those who love Him and keep His commandments: 6 let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open, to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have committed against You; I and my father's house have sinned. 7 We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. 8 Remember, please, the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples; 9 but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place where I have chosen to have My name dwell.' 10 They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand. 11 Please, Lord, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and please make Your servant successful today and grant him mercy before this man." Now I was the cupbearer to the king.





REFLECT/CONNECT

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

- What are you most looking forward to this upcoming year?

- What's one place or group of people you feel a strong connection or burden for? How do you think you would respond if you heard devastating news about it/them?



GROW IN THE WORD

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

1. Nehemiah received troubling news about the state of his home country, Jerusalem. The walls were broken down and the gates to the city were burned up, which left the city defenseless and vulnerable. Deeply grieved, Nehemiah wept, mourned, fasted, and prayed before the Lord (v. 1-4).
 - What stands out to you about Nehemiah's initial response to the bad news?

 - How does Nehemiah's response reflect his heart for God's people and for his city?
See also Luke 19:41-44.

 - In what ways do you typically respond to sorrowful news related to your community, city, or your world?



GROW IN THE WORD

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

2. Nehemiah prayed to God with great humility, acknowledging the character of God, confessing the sins of the people, and entreating God for his mercy. He recalled God's covenant promises and boldly asked for favor as he prepared to take action for his city and his people (v. 5-11).
- What do you learn about the nature of God based on Jeremiah's words of praise and based on his appeal? Consider also Exodus 34:6-7; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Deuteronomy 30:1-4.
 - How does Nehemiah's prayer model reliance on God for action and wisdom? Take special note of what Nehemiah was prepared to do next for his people in chapter 2.
 - How might Nehemiah's example of prayer lead you to imitate him in times of sorrow or hardship in your life or in the life of your community?

Upcoming Events

RE|ENGAGE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT | JANUARY 12

Whether your marriage is good and you want it to be great, or you are at rock bottom and wonder if there is hope, re|engage is a safe place to grow in your marriage. Register for this 14-week class today!

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!

