



Week One – Nehemiah

CONNECT

- Who is someone you feel is a great example of a world-changer? What is it about this person that inspires you?
- Has there been a world event, tragedy or disaster that broke your heart?

WORD

Nehemiah 1-11 (NIV)

1 The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa,² Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.³ They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”⁴ When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.⁵ Then I said: “LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you.⁷ We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.⁸ “Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,⁹ but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’¹⁰ “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.¹¹ Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.” I was cupbearer to the king.

THOUGHT

People cry about a lot of things. They cry at weddings. Parents cry when their children leave home. Sometimes they cry at birth of their children and grandchildren. They cry at sad movies, natural disasters, and injustice in the world. Nehemiah cried as well. Nehemiah cried about a broken wall on behalf of Jerusalem.

DISCUSSION

1. What breaks your heart and stirs righteous anger within you?

2. How has your burden impacted you emotionally and spiritually?

3. In what ways have you seen God use you and those around you to impact others in a positive way?

4. What keeps you from taking action on your burden? What do you need to do to remove these barriers?

5. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus tells us that all who are weary and burden come to Him and they will find rest. Why is it important for us to share our burdens with Christ?

PRAYER

- Ask God to break your heart for what breaks His heart.
- Tell God what is keeping you from taking action on your burden. Ask Him to remove these barriers.
- Ask God to show you the steps you need to take in addressing your burden.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Find someone that you can come together with this week and pray asking God to help relieve you of the burdens that weigh you down. Share your burdens with this person so that they may hold you accountable to releasing these burdens.
- This week focus on a big issue in the world, praying and believing like Nehemiah for God to enter into the circumstance.