

From Sorrow to Trust

Nehemiah responded to bad news by turning to the Lord in prayer.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Nehemiah 1:1-11

September 20, 2020

(Nehemiah 1:1-11) ¹The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ²Hanani, 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. ³They 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." ⁴When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. ⁵Then 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, ⁶let 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. ⁷We 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, ⁹but 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. ¹¹Lord, 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.

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- Share a time when you received some great news. How did you respond? Who did you share it with?
- Share a time when you received some heart-breaking news. How did you respond? Who did you share it with?
- Have you ever been there for others when they received crushing news? How did you respond to their hurt?

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Nehemiah 1:1-4

- What was the significance of the city of Jerusalem to the Jewish people? What made Jerusalem different than any other city?
- What did Nehemiah's brother report to him about what was going on in Jerusalem?
- Nehemiah responded to the news about Jerusalem by mourning, fasting, and praying for days. Why did he respond in that way? What is the lesson for us from his example? Why must we not discount the differences these things make?
- What did the physical condition of Jerusalem tell Nehemiah about the spiritual condition of the people living there?

Have a volunteer read Nehemiah 1:5-11

- What was the content of Nehemiah's prayer? Was it more focused on God or on Nehemiah's individual requests? Why do you think he prayed as he did?

- What did Nehemiah's prayer reveal about the character of God? What about Nehemiah's character? What was the connection between Nehemiah's spiritual life and his ability as a leader?
- How did Nehemiah use Scripture in His prayer? Have you ever prayed this way? Why should we incorporate Scripture into our prayers?
- Nehemiah ended his prayer with a personal request. What did Nehemiah ask for? What would it look like for you to pray similarly in your daily life?
- Nehemiah was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes. What were the responsibilities of his position, and why was this significant?

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- Nehemiah used the vocation God had given Him as cupbearer to the king to make an eternal impact. How could God use you in the place He has put you for the glory of His name?
- Nehemiah prayed desperately because he believed God heard and answered prayers. What God-sized things would you like to see happen in our church over the next year?
- What is one small step of obedience you could take to engage God's mission this week?

PRAYER: Praise God for using ordinary people for His extraordinary purposes. Pray that God would help you obey Him day by day in simple steps of obedience. Thank God for being who He is. Confess your need for God's presence every day.

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Nehemiah 7-8
 DAY 2 – Nehemiah 9
 DAY 3 – Nehemiah 10
 DAY 4 – Nehemiah 11
 DAY 5 – Nehemiah 12

KEY VERSE: Nehemiah 8:10

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.
 Explain what the text means.
 Apply the verse to your life.
 Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.

OUR VISION

To be a church
 for the unchurched,
 here and around the world.

ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW
 GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a
 way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.