

# CONNECT KIDS

## NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 1 Vs. 1-4

### OBSERVATION

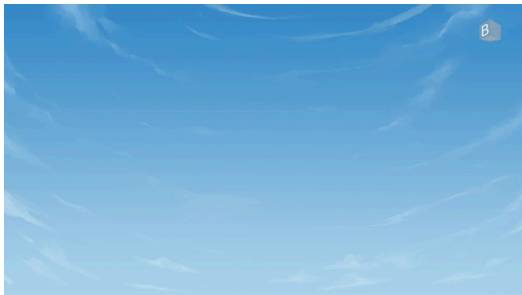
NEHEMIAH DEEPLY CARED ABOUT THE JEWS AND JERUSALEM!  
HIS GENUINE CONCERN WAS MADE EVIDENT THROUGH 4 DIFFERENT RESPONSES (ACTIONS).

1. NEHEMIAH CARED ENOUGH TO ASK
  2. NEHEMIAH CARED ENOUGH TO WEEP
  3. NEHEMIAH CARED ENOUGH TO FAST AND PRAY
  4. NEHEMIAH CARED ENOUGH TO VOLUNTEER
- Week 1
- Week 2

### I) PRAY

II) READ Chapter 1:1-4 (Out loud)

### III) VIDEO



## IV) INTRO

### **Have any of you ever watched a movie about a super-hero?**

Oh they're great aren't they? They're action packed, and the hero is awesome, and I just love those kind of movies. Well, if you've watched one, then you've probably noticed that the hero is always trying to rescue a damsel in distress.

### **Do any of you know what a damsel in distress is?**

Sorry boys, but this is really mushy!

A damsel in distress is a girl who the hero is in love with. And throughout the movie you see him jumping across buildings, and fighting villains, and breaking through brick walls to rescue her. Now do you know what I'm talking about?

So my question is...WHY?

### **Why does the hero go through all of that just to rescue the girl?**

Answer - HE REALLY CARES ABOUT HER.

Ya see, when we really care about something, we do things we normally wouldn't do.

- We fight for it...
- We chase after it,
- We long for it...

Why? Because we really care about it.

Well, Nehemiah really cared about something really deeply. (Can you say Nehemiah?)

### Who was Nehemiah?

He was a cupbearer for a Persian King named Artaxerxes. (Can you say Artaxerxes?)

### What is a cupbearer?

This is crazy!

The job of a cupbearer was to take a sip of whatever the king wanted to drink, before he drank it. If it was poisonous then the cupbearer would get sick or die, and the king would know not to drink it.

Crazy huh?

Well a cupbearer was actually a great job, because for Nehemiah, he was able to be friends with the king.

Ok...so back to the story!

One day, Nehemiah's brother and some friends came to see Nehemiah. Nehemiah asked them about how things were in Israel, which was where Nehemiah's family was from. Ya see, many years earlier, God had promised this land to Nehemiah's ancestors, and then He gave it to them. But then they started to disobey God and ended up being driven from their homeland.

The men told Nehemiah that things were really bad in Israel, specifically in Jerusalem. They said the walls were broken, and the gates were burned, so bad people could just come in and steal and destroy his home.

Why do you think he asked them about Israel?

Because He deeply cared about it. It was his home.

What do you think Nehemiah did when He heard about his home?

He wept!

What is the difference between crying and weeping?

We cry when we get in trouble or get hurt.

We weep when we lose something or someone that is special to us.

We ask about things we care about.

We weep for things we care about.

We will talk about what happened next for Nehemiah next week.

### CLOSE (Where is Jesus in the text?)

Did you know that Jesus cares for you?

Did you know that Jesus wept when he saw his friends were hurting?

Did you know that Jesus bears our burdens daily?

- He hurts when you hurt.
- He's sad when you're sad.
- He feels what you feel.
- You are never alone.

So when you pray to him, he listens to you and gives you peace. He loves you so much!