



Bible study for the week starting September 20, 2026

SHARE

Who is someone who devoted themselves to praying for you? (The first person who comes to mind is my Grandmother.) What impact did that have on who you are today?

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read [Nehemiah 1](#). In 1:1-4, Nehemiah hears the news then sits down, fasts, weeps and prays. What does this teach you about Nehemiah's heart and how it was formed by God?
2. In 1:5-11, before Nehemiah asks for anything, he praises God's faithfulness and confesses sins. No matter how circumstances change or how hard they are, what is true and unchanging about God?
3. Nehemiah doesn't just pray for the problem to go away; he prays for God to use him to help be a part of the solution. What's the difference?
4. Read [1 Peter 1:3-9](#). We have a living hope that's refined through suffering and struggle. How does this change how you face these things?
5. Read [Matthew 9:35-38](#). Jesus has compassion on those who are harrassed and helpless. Empathy hurts sometimes, but the alternative is to be unempathetic, which is no way to live. How do we have empathy without being broken by it?
6. Nehemiah cared enough to ask, he prayed, and he responded. What's one thing you can do this week to put your living hope and compassion into action?

PRAY

Pray like Nehemiah for the things that break your heart. Trust God, confess sin, and cling to His Word and promises.



NEHEMIAH: THE CUPBEARER'S PRAYER

Nehemiah 1 (1 Peter 1:3-9; Matthew 9:35-38)

September 20, 2026 - Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

When things are BAD:

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for WELFARE and not for evil, to give you a FUTURE and a HOPE" (Jeremiah 29:11).

The RED THREAD

God always preserves a REMNANT:

"...For when seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will VISIT you, and I will fulfill to you my PROMISE and bring you BACK to this place" (Jeremiah 29:10).

EMPATHY:

"As soon as I heard these words I sat down and WEPT and MOURNED for days, and I continued FASTING and PRAYING before the God of heaven (Nehemiah 1:4).

PRAYER:

ADORATION + SUPPLICATION + CONFESSION + WORD + PLEA

Was Nehemiah a PROPHET?

Adding a BLOCK...

For next week, please read Nehemiah 2.