

# 2021 Community Groups

## WEEKLY GUIDE

### July 25

Pastor Aaron started a new series entitled: "From the Ground Up" out of the book of Nehemiah. Over the next five weeks he will walk us through the book of Nehemiah, which focuses on repentance, hope restored, and the story of people who had been in exile and had to figure out a new way of living. Sound familiar? The title of this week's message is: "God's Plan for Rebuilding your life."

### Community Prayer:

Lord, as we start this new series on Nehemiah may you open our hearts and minds to see ourselves in what was going in this story. Help us to understand that we need you every hour of every day. Many of us are still struggling with the aftermath of 2020 as we see the emergence of a new variant. May our focus be on you as we look to you for forgiveness, direction, and guidance in this season and the seasons to come; in Jesus' Name, Amen.

### Opening Questions

1. What did you learn about God during 2020 that you did not know in 2019?
  - a. What is God teaching you about Himself in 2021?

### EXPLORATION

Read the passages below...what can you learn about what it means to follow Jesus from these passages? (Have someone read from their bible)

### Nehemiah 1:1-2

2. How frequently do you check on loved ones and friends to determine how they are doing physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually?
  - a. What more can you do in this area? Share some of your best practices with the group.
3. Nehemiah's name means "The Lord Comforts," as he is meant to be one who comforts others when they struggle. How have you comforted family and friends in the last six months?

### 1 Corinthians 12:26

4. What is your interpretation of this verse?
  - a. How many of you have seen this in action?
    - i. Have you spent time mourning with those who mourn or rejoicing in another's celebration?
  - b. Why is this an important principle for a follower of Jesus?



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### **Nehemiah 1:3**

5. Even though Nehemiah had never been to Jerusalem, why do you think he wanted to know about the situation and the people who lived there?
  - a. Why should you be concerned about others who are going through hard times?

### **Nehemiah 1:4**

6. When you hear of problems others are having in their lives as a result of some calamity, how does this affect you?
  - a. Have you ever been devastated...reduced to tears over the pain and suffering of a person you never even met?
  - b. What was the first thing you did after hearing about it?
  - c. How has God used you to help in these types of situations?
  - d. How many of you have fasted and prayed as a result of this? Why was this important for you to do?

This is a MASSIVE lesson for many people:

- For leaders, Nehemiah is going to be an example in vision;
- For parents, an encouragement to keep the main thing the main thing;
- For students, Nehemiah is an example in facing conflict and opposition in life...
- BUT for all of us there are massive lessons about disappointment, pain, brokenness and how to be a part of God's rebuilding project after destruction has entered our lives.

### PRAYER IN NEHEMIAH:

There are 9 prayers in Nehemiah; Most of them short, but do not be mistaken that short prayers are all we need to make it through. The short prayers are supplements, the longer times of prayer bring the sustenance.

### **Nehemiah 1:5-11 (READ THIS TOGETHER AS A PRAYER)**

7. What is the evidence that **Praise** opens this prayer up in verse 5? (what did he say about God?)
8. When Nehemiah moved into verse 6 (**Request**) what did He ask God to do?
9. In verses 7 (**Repentance/Confession**), what did he say about the people and himself?
10. What did Nehemiah remind God of in verses 8-9?
11. In verses 10-11, what does Nehemiah ask God to do for him?



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12. Have you ever used the sequence of Praise, Request, and Repentance/Confession in your prayers? Why is this something you are willing to incorporate?
13. Why is it important for us to pray the scriptures?

**(READ TOGETHER AS A PRAYER AGAIN AND LET IT SINK IN)**

### **Nehemiah 2:1-4**

14. How did God answer Nehemiah's prayer?
15. Nehemiah prayed for 4-months before meeting with the king. What does this say about his heart to get help for his people?
  - a. What does this say to us who have been praying for the salvation of a loved one for a long time?

## **THE TAKEAWAY**

- Nehemiah, like Jesus sees the suffering and brokenness of his people and is truly moved to action.
- Nehemiah, like Jesus is willing to sacrifice himself for the sake of others who are troubled and disgraced.
- Nehemiah, like Jesus prays, fasts, and commits himself to the work at hand.

**BUT** Nehemiah is not Jesus...Nehemiah doesn't complete anything **BUT** Jesus fulfills everything.

- Jesus builds up the wall of security and salvation
- Jesus stands in the gap and takes our place
- Jesus sacrifices His life so that we may live
- Jesus redeems
- Jesus rebuilds



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### PRAYER REQUESTS

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