



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

29 APRIL

EXPECTANT PRAYER: NEHEMIAH

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements.

MAIN TEXT: Nehemiah 1:1-11

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 favour in the presence of this man."

I was cupbearer to the king.

COMING UP

Newcomers Breakfast | 6 May
Equip Academy – P&P | 6 May-17 Jun
CAP Money | 6, 13, 20 May
Prayer Meeting | 16 May
Belonging | 3 June

GETTING STARTED

We want to develop and strengthen a healthy culture of encouragement at Chapel, so each week we'll start our LG's by sharing something we want to thank God for: an encouraging thing He's doing in our lives, or in the lives of others. Thinking specifically in relation to the B.L.E.S.S.* series (a reminder of what this means is on the bottom of this sheet), can you share any encouragement from your own personal witnessing and 'bless'ing?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Looking at Nehemiah's prayer; particularly verses 4-7, how does he display the right attitude? *Hint*: he sat down and wept, he mourned and repented, he fasted and prayed.

2. Read Chapter 2, verses 1-4. What did Guy mean when he spoke about Nehemiah having the right 'latitude'? *Hint*: Proverbs 9:10, Ephesians 6:18, Mark 5:17-20.

3. In Chapter 2:4-5, how does Nehemiah exhibit a level of gratitude? Are we ever tempted to pray 'my will be done' rather than 'Thy will be done'?

4. What does it look like to pray in line with God's will? *Hint*: 2 Corinthians 1:20.

NEXT STEPS & PRAYER

We want to give a significant amount of time tonight to praying together, and to be inspired and fuelled by Nehemiah's prayer. Read Nehemiah 1:5-11 again. Make this your personal prayer, and your prayer for Chapel. Pray as a group or in pairs. Press in, and pray your best prayers!

Here are some things you might want to include:

- (v.7-8) Repentance: for wrong actions, lack of care for the poor and needy, lack of faith.
- (v. 8-9) Many returning to God.
- (v. 10-11) God's favour on us, true worship, expectancy for prayers answered.

***B.L.E.S.S. means:** Begin with Prayer, Listen with care Eat together, Serve with love, Share Stories. For more info see westminsterchapel.org.uk/bless.