

**Part 1: “Aligning your Heart with what God is up to in this World! ”**  
**October 22, 2017**

*Nehemiah 1:1-11, Jeremiah 29:10-14, Luke 1:7.*

**Opening Questions:**

- What unfinished projects at home most bother you? Why?
- What is something that concerns your heart deeply at this time?
- If you had to boil down the main concern that God has in this world what would you say it is?

**Questions for reflection and study:**

*Read Nehemiah 1:1-11*

- Why is Nehemiah so concerned about Jerusalem?
- How does Nehemiah respond to the report he gets back in regards to the city? What does this say about Nehemiah?
- What does Nehemiah’s prayer—pray for?
- When was the last time you had a time of just heartfelt prayer with God? What was the result?

*Read Jeremiah 29:10-14*

- What does God promise Israel and why?
- What are the results of this promise?
- How does this passage and Nehemiah connect? In other words what is God up to in the context of Nehemiah?
- How does God use difficult things to bring about good?
- Knowing that God is a promise keeper how does that help your faith and whatever you might be going through?

*Read Luke 15:7. (Read Luke 15 for full context)*

- What does this verse and this entire chapter of Luke reveal about the heart and concern of God?
- What is God’s main concern in this world?

**Application: Putting it into Action:**

- How grieved are you about the state of the world?
- Do you tend to despair over what is? Accept what is? Or dream about and act on what could be?
- How well does your your heart align with the heart of God and his concern in this world?
- What are some practical steps that you can take this week to align your heart with what God is doing in the world?