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## Change is the Point: Week 2

### *The Kind Of Prayer That Changes Things: Nehemiah 1:4-11*

Joel Engle, January 27, 2019

#### *Small Group Discussion Questions*

#### **Getting Started**

Take some time to catch up and connect as a group. Pray before discussion. Expect God to move through your time together!

#### **Pacing Your Group**

Move quickly through "observation" and "reflection", leaving enough time for "discussion" and "surrender."

#### **Scripture Reading**

Read aloud the passage for this week's study, slowly enough for everyone to enjoy. Re-read as you discuss the questions.

#### Nehemiah 1:4-11

*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. <sup>5</sup> And I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, <sup>6</sup> let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. <sup>7</sup> We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. <sup>8</sup> Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, <sup>9</sup> but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.' <sup>10</sup> They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. <sup>11</sup> O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man."*

#### **Observation: *What does this scripture passage say?***

1. Describe Nehemiah's prayer. What different kinds of things are asked, said, and done in his prayer?
2. What attributes/characteristics of God does Nehemiah appeal to and speak back to God in his prayer?

#### **Reflection: *What are some first thoughts flowing from the scriptures?***

3. How has God been a promise keeper to you?
4. How do you pray? How do you align your prayers with the promises, the will, or the character of God?

#### **Discussion: *Talking together about how the scriptures connect to everyday life.***

5. What attributes/characteristics of God are most needed in our country, our families, our marriages, our church, and in the lives of children today? Connect a real need and concern you have to a specific attribute/characteristic of God.
6. John 14:13-14 says this about prayer, "Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

1 John 5:14-15 says this about prayer, "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him"

How would our prayer life change if we took these verses seriously?

#### **Surrender: *Responding to God's voice.***

7. What is one thing God is saying to you through this study and discussion?

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#### **We're here!**

We would love to hear about how things are going in your small group!

Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

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