



Nehemiah

Week of Mar 20 – Mar 26

Icebreaker Question:

- 1 | Share 3 things about yourself that you think no one here knows.

Into the Text Questions:

Read Nehemiah 1:1-11

- 1 | What is the purpose of the opening verses? What important details are we given? Who brings news to Nehemiah about the state of Jerusalem? What news do these men give to Nehemiah? How does Nehemiah respond to the news (1:4)? What does Nehemiah's grief over the state of Jerusalem reveal about his character? His affection for the Lord? His affection for his people?

- 2 | In his great distress, Nehemiah approaches God with an orderly appeal. What do you notice about the structure and content of the prayer (1:5-11)? Next to each heading below, note the corresponding verse: 1.) Adoration (opening) _____ 2) Corporate confession _____ 3) Personal confession _____ 4) Corporate petition _____ 5) Personal petition _____.

- 3 | When you are deeply sad or frustrated over a difficult situation, how do you begin your prayers to the Lord? How is the opening to Nehemiah's prayer an example to you? What petition does Nehemiah repeat like a bookend to his prayer (1:6, 11)? What do you think this repetition should communicate to us? To God?

Application Questions:

- 1 | When you receive bad news about someone or something you care deeply about, is your response like Nehemiah's? Why or why not? Why does Nehemiah fast when seeking God's will? What does fasting teach us? What has been your experience with fasting?

- 2 | Nehemiah's prayer indicates a right understanding of the character of God and a working knowledge of the promises of God. Though he lives in exile among people of pagan beliefs, Nehemiah knows and clings to the character and promises of God. How is he an example for us? How were you challenged by this text?

- 3 | In the book of Nehemiah, the steadfast love of the Lord will be shown to His covenant people despite their past, present and future disobedience. How have you witnessed the steadfast love of the Lord in your own life? How can we contrast this to the truth of the gospel?