

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 15, 2015

This Week's Focus: Nehemiah is broken over the despair of Jerusalem.

This Week's Text: Nehemiah 1

The self-sufficient will not pray; they merely talk to themselves. The self-satisfied will not pray; they have no knowledge of their need. The self-righteous cannot pray; they have no basis on which to approach God.

Cyril Barber

*He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. **Colossians 1:13-14***

*Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace. **Ephesians 2:12-14***

Related Texts: Ezra 4:23; Psalm 121:1-2; Hebrews 4:15-16; Luke 18:9-14; 1 John 1:9; Jude 5

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What in the text/sermon was most illuminating or helpful? Why?
- What is the context of the book of Nehemiah?
- Who is Nehemiah? What does his name mean? What is the significance?
- What did Nehemiah request of his brother?
 - What was Hanani's answer?
 - Why did Nehemiah care to inquire?
- Why and how were the walls demolished? Reference 2 Chronicles 36:17-21 and Ezra 4:23.
- What is important about the walls of Jerusalem?
- What motivated him to rebuild the demolished walls? How does the reality of the Gospel defend against the shame and despair caused by sin?

- Nehemiah was a man of prayer. Is prayer a priority in your life? Is prayer fundamental to your life or is it merely supplemental?
- How did Nehemiah begin his prayer? Reference verses 4-5.
- What does Nehemiah's prayer reveal about the character of God?
- What does Nehemiah's confession reveal about human nature?
- Nehemiah repeatedly uses "we" and "us" in his prayer. Discuss the significance of corporate identity and confession.
- What's the significance of Nehemiah's tears? Like Nehemiah, are you driven to mission out of a burden and care for the people around you?
- Nehemiah was confident in God's promise-keeping character. Do you rely on God to sustain you with His abiding grace, love, forgiveness, and mercy and to empower you to succeed on mission to reflect His glory?
- Explain what it means that we cannot diminish God's glory, but we can reduce its brightness in the world.
- In what way is Nehemiah a book of hope for the people of Israel then and for us today?
- Who is the hero of the book of Nehemiah? How does Nehemiah point to Jesus?

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus is the true and better Redeemer.
- Jesus is the true and better Exodus.

Next Week's Text: Nehemiah 2