

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of February 22, 2015

**This Week's Focus:** Nehemiah's four months of praying, fasting and mourning provided everything he needed to begin the work God called him to.

**This Week's Text:** Nehemiah 2

*"Wait on the Lord" is a constant refrain in the Psalms, and it is a necessary word, for God often keeps us waiting. He is not in such a hurry as we are, and it is not his way to give more light on the future than we need for action in the present, or to guide us more than one step at a time. When in doubt, do nothing, but continue to wait on God. When action is needed, light will come. **J.I. Packer***

*For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. **Hebrews 6:10-12***

**Related Texts:** Hebrews 6:11-12; 1 John 4:18; Proverbs 21:1; Psalm 16:9; Romans 5:6-9

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What in the text/sermon was most illuminating or helpful? Why?
- What is the context of Nehemiah 2?
- How long after Nehemiah 1 does Nehemiah 2 take place? What does that reveal about Nehemiah's prayer life?
- What does it mean to wait on the Lord? Describe the difference between passivity and anticipatory waiting?
- What was Nehemiah's vision for Jerusalem? How had he arrived at his vision?
- What motivated Nehemiah's desire to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem?

- When it came time to make his request to the King, Nehemiah was stricken with fear. What was his request and why was he afraid? How did he overcome his fear?
- Nehemiah's short prayer was birthed out of four months of faithful prayer. What does that mean?
- What does King Artaxerxes' decision say about his relationship with Nehemiah? What kind of reputation do you have with your bosses? With those outside the faith?
- Ultimately, who is responsible for the king's decision to grant Nehemiah's request? Reference verse 8 and Proverbs 21:1.
  - What does this reveal about the nature of God? Do you believe that God continues to work providentially today?
- Discuss the importance of prayerful dependence on God and strategic planning.
- The first thing Nehemiah did when he arrived in Jerusalem was rest. The theme of rest can be found throughout Scripture (ex. Genesis 2:1-3, Exodus 20:8-11, Matthew 11:28-30). Why is rest important?
- Nehemiah most likely had never seen Jerusalem. What do you think he felt when he finally laid eyes on the land of promise? What do you think was Israel's initial reaction to meeting Nehemiah and his large caravan of officers and horsemen? Reference verse 9.
- Why did Nehemiah choose to thoroughly inspect the walls before communicating his vision and strategy to Israel? Is there brokenness in your life that needs to be acknowledged so that proper healing can take place?
- As they began reconstruction of the wall, what was the response Nehemiah and the builders received from their surrounding neighbors? Reference verse 19. Why? How should we respond when we experience opposition to Kingdom mission?
- Nehemiah led, but did not accomplish on his own the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem. How can we encourage each other to stay on mission?
- What greater mission does Nehemiah's mission point to? How is Jesus the greater and better Nehemiah?

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- Jesus, sent by the Father, into this broken and jacked up world to renew and redeem it!
- Jesus, sent by the Father, into our broken and jacked up lives to renew and redeem us!
- *God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!*

### **Next Week's Text: Nehemiah 3**