



PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE

LESSON 15 NEHEMIAH 1:1-11

1. What resonated with you from our study on **Daniel's prayer of confession**, and what difference did that make in your thoughts, actions or prayers this past week?

NEHEMIAH'S HEARTFELT REQUEST

God positioned Nehemiah, a faithful Jew living in exile, to have an opportunity to inquire of the Babylonian king to help his own people in Jerusalem. Nehemiah's heart was moved at news concerning Jerusalem and he knows he needs God to act on his behalf before the king.

2. As you read **Nehemiah 1:1-11**, pray and ask God to enlarge your view of Him as the One who is able to grant favor in any situation. Where is Lord leading your heart to ask for something in boldness for the Lord, perhaps with a boss or leader of yours?
3. Read **Nehemiah 1:1, 11b** (the last sentence) and **2:1a**. What do you learn about who Nehemiah was, his job, his boss, and location? What do you think this tells us about Nehemiah's status?
4. In **1:2-3**, what two things did Nehemiah ask his brother and what did he learn? *Challenge:* comment on why you think the remnant that survived in Jerusalem was in "great trouble and disgrace"?

5. a) Read **V4**. Put in your own words the effect this news had on Nehemiah. What strikes you about his response?
- b) Share a time when you have received bad news; what was your immediate and longer-term response? (Maybe you identify with Nehemiah - living in one place, with your heart in another?)
6. Read **V5** together with **Psalm 86:5-7**; how does Nehemiah begin his prayer and what attributes of God do you find in both of these prayers?
7. a) What is the overall tone and attitude we see in **Nehemiah 1:5-7**? List some of the specific ways Nehemiah prays that are a model for us to pray.
- b) Share what convicts you most that you would like to incorporate into your own prayers, and why.
8. Read **V8-10** together with the instructions to Moses in **Deuteronomy 6:4-6**. From these verses, what phrases will you pray for yourself and/or for others you love?

9. Read **Nehemiah 1:11** and **2:1-8**. What do you learn from Nehemiah in how he handled the interaction with the king (note: some time has passed between **1:11** and **2:1**)? How did God work powerfully in response to hearing Nehemiah's heartfelt prayer request?

10. HEART REFLECTION

Psalm 86:5-7 "You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you. Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. When I am in distress, I call to you, because you **answer me.**" As you consider the prayer of Nehemiah together with the above psalm, write your own bold, heartfelt prayer for any areas of your life where there is "great trouble" or "disgrace".

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST