

Nehemiah Week 1 (The Brokenness of the World)

Nehemiah Week 2 (Prayer)

Read Nehemiah 1

1. The past 2 Sundays have marked the start of a new sermon series covering the book of Nehemiah. Review the history and setting of this book (i.e., Israel had been in slavery/exile and were now allowed to return to their homeland, but it needed to be rebuilt – see timeline below). Try to put yourself in the shoes of the exiled Israelites, try to put yourself in the shoes of Nehemiah. What would they have been going through?
2. What is your reaction when you hear of pain and hurt in those around you? Do you agree that in some ways we have grown numb to the sin and brokenness in the world? Why or why not? What can be done about this?
3. Why should we pray? What happens when we pray? What expectations do you have of God as you enter prayer? Have you ever felt that God did not answer a prayer for you?
4. When and where do you pray? How do your prayers compare to the prayer of Nehemiah and the 'PRAY' acronym?
5. If this is how we are called to communicate with God, would it also make sense to communicate to others this way? What might that look like?
6. What are some steps that we can take this week for being more deliberate and consistent in prayer?

“Digging Deeper”

Read Matthew 6: 5 - 13

How do Jesus' teachings on prayer compare to what was discussed during the sermon?

Nehemiah Timeline

1060 BC – 1020 BC: David is King:

1020 BC – 980 BC: Solomon is King

980 BC: Israel Splits into the Northern & Southern Kingdoms

721 BC: Northern Tribes defeated and exiled by the Assyrians

597 BC & 587 BC: Southern Tribes defeated and exiled by the Babylonians

539 BC: Persians defeat the Babylonians under King Cyrus

538 BC: Zerubbabel leads first wave of Jewish exiles back to Jerusalem (Ezra 1-6)

457 BC: Ezra leads second wave of Jewish exiles to Jerusalem (Ezra 7-10)

444 BC: Nehemiah arrives to rebuild Jerusalem's walls (Nehemiah 1-3)