



“When Things Fall Apart”

Nehemiah 1:1 – 2:10

This week we begin a new series of studies in God’s Word. Let’s leave Orlando and travel back in time over two millennia to Jerusalem. The date is roughly 445 B.C. The people of God are in a state of malaise. They returned to their homeland from exile in Babylonia nearly a century ago and had managed to rebuild their temple, but other reconstruction projects are at a stalemate. The wall around the city is in ruins. Leadership is non-existent. The people are intimidated by enemies in neighboring countries. They don’t know what to do next.

Into this troubled situation steps Nehemiah, a Jew serving in the court of the king of Persia, Artaxerxes I (reigned c. 464-424 B.C.). In this week’s study you will learn how and why Nehemiah decides to do something about Israel’s problems.

However you use this sermon discussion guide – individually, as a family, or with another person or group – I hope it will help you understand and apply God’s Word to your life.

~ Pastor Mike



KNOWING GOD

Read **Nehemiah 1**. What did Nehemiah know about God that gave him the freedom to be bold in prayer?

As we study the book of Nehemiah, we will find that Nehemiah often points beyond himself to the person and work of Christ. In this first chapter, how do you see Christ revealed through the historical figure of Nehemiah?

Read **Nehemiah 2:1-10**. Notice the phrase in verse 8: “the gracious hand of my God was upon me.” See also Nehemiah 1:10 and 2:18. What did it mean for Nehemiah that God’s hand was upon him? What does it mean for you?



GROWING TOGETHER

How is your prayer life these days? Give it a score between 1 and 10 (1 = non-existent; 10 = as good as it gets). Why did you give it that number?

In Nehemiah 1, Nehemiah is distraught about the situation back home in Jerusalem. What things most concern you about the state of the Church in our day?

SERMON NOTES



SERVING OTHERS

Nehemiah traded in his cushy job as cupbearer to the king in Susa for twelve hard years as governor of Judea. He did that in order “to promote the welfare of the Israelites” (2:10). How does that speak to you about your priorities and values? If God were to call you to give up the comforts of home in order to radically serve others, would you be ready to go?



IN YOUR FAMILY...

- (a) As a family, write a prayer similar to Nehemiah’s in Nehemiah 1. Notice the parts of his prayer: Adoration (vs. 5), Intercession (vs. 6a), Confession (vss. 6b-7), Recollection (vss. 8-10), Supplication (vs. 11). See if you can borrow some of Nehemiah’s words as you pray for your neighbors, church, nation, or world.
- (b) Even though Nehemiah was “just a cupbearer,” he went on to play an important role in the history of Israel. Do you ever think of yourself as “just a kid,” “just a mom,” “just a teacher,” “just an ordinary guy,” or something like that? What do you learn about your potential from Nehemiah’s example?