

RESTORING THE VISION

Nehemiah 1:1-11

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INTRO:

1. The destruction of Israel
2. The restoration of Israel

A. THE CHALLENGES OF NEHEMIAH

1. Israel lost the **people** in the land
2. Israel lost their **place** of worship
3. Israel lost the **practice** of their faith

B. THE CALLING OF NEHEMIAH

1. **Reclaim** God's glory (v. 4-6)
2. **Revive** God's people (v. 7)
3. **Resettle** God's land (v. 8-9)
4. **Renew** God's purpose (v. 10-11)

C. THE CHARACTER OF NEHEMIAH

1. He **recognized** the need (v. 1-2)
2. He is **concerned** with the need (v. 3-4)
3. He **prayed** for the need (v. 5-11)
4. He **responded** to the need (v. 11b)

CONCLUSION

“Your walls are ever before me.” (Isaiah 49:16)

In what way you recognize a need in our church and willing to rebuild it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Icebreaker. If you were to write your autobiography, what would the title be?
2. Read Nehemiah 1:1-2. What was Nehemiah's role in the court of Artaxerxes? What was the condition of Jerusalem that prompted Nehemiah's concern?
3. Read Nehemiah 1:3-4. How did Nehemiah react when he heard about the state of Jerusalem's destruction? Although Nehemiah was born in captivity, he never saw himself as an outsider; why is his connection to Jerusalem so deep even if he has not seen, walked and been to Jerusalem? How does this passage tell us about God's call to our lives when we feel we are not the right person?
4. Read Nehemiah 1:5-11. What elements of Nehemiah's prayer are noteworthy? How can we apply the principles of Nehemiah's prayer to our own lives?
5. What role does confession of sin play in Nehemiah's prayer? How does Nehemiah identify with the sins of his people? What promises from God does Nehemiah recall in his prayer?
6. Read Nehemiah 1:11. The last phrase of this verse captures the obedience, faith and sacrifice of Nehemiah. What steps does Nehemiah take immediately after his prayer? What did he give up and what did he gain?
7. In Isaiah 49:16, God says, "*Your walls are ever before me.*" In ancient times, *walls* meant protection, security, belonging and identity. Although this passage was a promise of God to Israel and the temple city, God continues to have concern over His people. He is searching for a new generation of "*Nehemiahs*" who will rebuild the walls. In what way is God impressing an area of our church that you recognize a need and can help to rebuild it?
8. Pray for one another that God will use you and your Life Group to fill a need in the church.