



“Nehemiah”
Nehemiah 1:1 - 2:5
June 24, 2018 / Pastor Shawn

¹ The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile and also about Jerusalem. ³ They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.” ⁴ When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Nehemiah 1:1-4

Ordinary World Changers:

1. Sit down to cry.

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. Nehemiah 1:4a

WHAT BREAKS YOUR HEART?

2. Kneel down to pray.

For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed to the God of heaven. Nehemiah 1:4b

3. Stand up to act.

³ but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and it's gates have been destroyed with fire?” ⁴ The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of Heaven, ⁵ and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city of Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.” Nehemiah 2:3-5

Discussion Questions

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. (If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.)

1. Who is someone you feel is a great example of a world-changer? What is it about this person that inspires you?
2. Read Nehemiah 1:1-11.
 - a) In this passage, Nehemiah is heartbroken by the fact that the wall and gates of Jerusalem were destroyed. What breaks your heart and stirs righteous anger within you?
 - b) How has your burden impacted you emotionally and spiritually?
 - c) In what ways have you seen God use you and those around you to impact others in a positive way?
 - d) What keeps you from taking action on your burden? What do you need to do to remove these barriers?
3. Read Nehemiah 2:1-10. Nehemiah decides to act on his burden by committing to rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.
 - a) What challenges are you facing that you need to take to God in prayer in the way Nehemiah did with his burden?
 - b) How is God stirring you to take action on your burden? What's your next step?
 - c) Who are some people you'll need with you to change the world?
 - d) What impact on others do you think you could make if you decided to address your burden and take action?