

Loving the City: Healing a Nation Week 2
The Power of Praying for Your City
Nehemiah 1:5-11

Icebreaker:

If you had to compare your prayer life right now to a household appliance, which one would it be and why? (Microwave? Coffee maker? Refrigerator? Broken toaster?)

Read Together: Nehemiah 1:5–11

Discussion Questions:

1. Nehemiah didn't begin with the size of the problem but with the character of God. Why do you think it's important to start our prayers with God's power and love? How might that change the way you approach prayer this week?
2. In verse 6, Nehemiah confesses not only Israel's sins as their sin but includes himself as a part of the problem. What makes confession so difficult for us? How does personal confession strengthen our prayers?
3. Nehemiah reminds God of God's promises (vv. 8–9). What promises of God do you lean on in prayer? How could praying God's promises bring more boldness and faith into your prayer life?
4. In verse 11, Nehemiah prays specifically for favor with the king. Why do you think specific prayers can feel riskier than general ones? Share a time when you prayed a specific prayer and saw God answer.
5. Think about your workplace, school, neighborhood, or circle of friends. What's one "next step" you could pray for yourself this week—something specific you want God to do through you in that space?

Prayer Time:

- Begin by praising God for God's power and love.
- Take a few minutes to confess personal or communal sins silently or out loud.
- Pray Scripture promises over your neighborhood and city.
- Close by each person naming one specific prayer request for their next step in faith and mission.