

Small group study

The Book of Nehemiah

Session 1: The prayer of Nehemiah (rebuilding of brokenness)

Read the Passage:

Nehemiah 1:1-4

The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ²Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

³They 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.”

⁴When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

Background on the story

Okay this is what is happening. Previous to this passage, Jerusalem was destroyed by a Babylonian King named Nebuchadnezzar. Jew's were removed from their homeland and immersed into a culture contrary to their faith and beliefs. By doing this the kings plan was to demolish all association with the Jewish people and their faith.

Today we are going to look at what Nehemiah's response was after he received the report.

Opening Statement

Today's session is how to repair the brokenness in our lives. We will be looking at how Nehemiah responded to a bad report and how he repaired brokenness.

As we jump in into our discussion, we are going to use three thoughts from Nehemiah 1:1-4.

Supporting points

1. ³ They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace"
 - How do you think a Jewish survivor felt?
 - *How do you feel after you have survived something?*
 - In spite of survival what trouble did they still face?
 - *As a believer do we still face trouble?*

2. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."
 - How do you think Nehemiah responded to devastating news?
 - How have you responded to devastating news?

3. 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's reaction was weeping and mourning?
 - As humans how do we initially react to bad news?
 - Nehemiah's response then was to fast and pray before God. How do you think he came to this response?

- In your life what does it take for you to switch gears and seek God instead of focusing on the bad report?

Conclusion

In our session what would you say the big take away is?

Close in prayer