

LG | LeaderGuide

[Nehemiah 2:1-8]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

Prepare our minds to receive God's word.

- How was everyone's week? [Does everyone know each other? Any introductions needed?]
- Anything new in your lives'? Are there any burdens we need to pray for or victories we can celebrate together?
- When reflecting on the message this past Sunday, what most resonated with you?

ILLUMINATE

Open your Bibles to the primary text. If you do not have a Bible, your leader can provide one.

1. Read our primary text. Nehemiah is in a prayerful state for months according the opening chapters. How would someone arrive at this conclusion in regards to the timeline?
Nehemiah 1:1 – Chislev (Nov/Dec). Nehemiah 2:1 – Nisan (Mar/Apr). He has been prayerful about this event for months now.
2. Why do you think Nehemiah said “let the king live forever” to king Artaxerxes? Is he exchanging niceties or does he really desire the best for the king?
Nehemiah was verbally expressing his loyalty to the king. He also realized that it was not a popular request to ask the king to share power with anyone or anything, even God. He knows that with his request, he will need the kings full support for his plan (God's plan) to be successful.
3. What is the dialogue between the King and Nehemiah? What is Nehemiah's natural instinct when faced with trials?
The king recognizes Nehemiah's sadness. Nehemiah explains his sadness of heart for his “father's graves.” The king asks Nehemiah, “what are you requesting?” Nehemiah then does what he always does when faced with a decision or trial...he turns to the Lord for support through prayer.
4. Using Nehemiah's situation as an example, how can we follow in Nehemiah's footsteps to pursue something God has placed in our hearts?

Read the Bible to discover God's will and His promises. Ask God to align your will and desires with His. Seek to be used in accordance to God's will. Make plans for Him to accomplish His will through you if the opportunity should come to pass.

5. Is there a time in your life where you "stayed in Persia," rather than being obedient to God's pull on your life? What do you think Nehemiah would say to us in those difficult life moments? Oftentimes the Holy Spirit will place on our hearts to move and act in certain situations, to get "messy" and uncomfortable in order to stretch us and accomplish His will at the same time. It is always easy to say, "not me, not now", but God desire more from us. Nehemiah's actions instruct us on how to proceed when these situations arise in our own lives.
6. What are the things you should be crying out to the Lord for and making plans for the opportunity that you might address the situation? Are there any that God has revealed to you as we have studied Nehemiah?

[Personal Dialogue]

7. As we conclude this text, what else have we learned about Nehemiah? Nehemiah is also a proactive planner. He is praying big prayers and making big plans so that if God should proceed in using him to accomplish this monumental feat, he will be ready.

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. What does tonight's conversation lead you to pray for? What burdens have been presented in conversation?