

# ONE

## STORY

### SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

### WEEK 39 Nehemiah

#### BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Pray for each of your group members by name
- Look over the questions on the right and choose the ones that are most appropriate for your small group. If you're really feeling motivated, you might even think of a few on your own.
- Think through how you might prompt your group a little if they have difficulty getting started in discussion.
- Take a look at the accountability question below. Lead members to gather one on one or in same sex clusters to discuss it over coffee this week.

#### THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

God's desires for us to have a heart like His.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTION

Why are you not grieved to the point of tears over the overwhelming needs around us for the gospel?

#### TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Read Malachi; Matthew 1-4; Mark 1; Luke 1-5; John 1-4;

#### AS YOU READ...

...Think about what God's plan is for your life.

## CONNECT

(10 min.)

Choose one or both of the following questions to begin your time together as a group.

1. **Where is home for you? How long have you been away from your roots?**
2. **What unfinished or undone projects at home most disturb you?**

## EXPLORE

(40 min.)

Say something like, "Today we will be talking about Nehemiah and his vision to rebuild one of the walls around Jerusalem."

3. **If you were in worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?**

**(Leader:** Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through this week's assigned reading.)

4. **Read Nehemiah 1:1-4. Why was Nehemiah so concerned about Jerusalem?**
5. **Read verse 4 again. How does Nehemiah respond to the need he sees staring him in the face? What does this say about his relationship with the Lord?**
6. **How vital a force do you think prayer was for Nehemiah? Daily routine? Crisis times only? Intimate? Energizing?**
7. **Take a look at Nehemiah's prayer in verses 5-11. You might even choose to recall it in your own words. What does this prayer say about the nature of God? What does Nehemiah see in himself the more He focuses on God?**
8. **Read verses 8-10. What does he recall as he persists in prayer?**
9. **Read verse 11. What does the last phrase of the first sentence say? Nehemiah was approaching God and this task only for the Glory of God's name. What does this say about the way we should approach each of our daily tasks? Be practical and specific.**

## TRANSFORM

(10 min.)

Wrap up your time by recalling a few things from your meeting that stood out to you. Then, ask the following question and pray together.

10. **When you encounter news of brokenness, hunger, hurt, and need for the gospel, do you respond like Nehemiah? Remember he didn't just pray, he took action! How will you take action on the children dying every few seconds of preventable diseases? The 1.5 billion people who've never heard the gospel? Of the many hurting around us?**

# This Week's Study Notes:

## Scripture Notes

### Nehemiah 1:1

Probably born in Persia, Nehemiah served as King Artaxerxes's personal cupbearer. He was also an important statesman who helped Ezra reestablish the Jews in Jerusalem. His name means "the Lord comforts." His great-grandparents may have been taken into captivity when the Babylonians captured Jerusalem.

### Nehemiah 1:6

Nehemiah wept, fasted, and prayed continuously for several days over the condition of Jerusalem. He knew that he could not solve the problem without God's help. He included himself and his family when he confessed the sins of the Israelites. He shared the responsibility for Israel's disobedience.

### Nehemiah 1:8

He reminded God of his covenant in Leviticus 26:27-45: If the people of Israel were unfaithful, God would send them from their homeland to various places; but if they obeyed, He would regather them to Jerusalem (Deut. 30:1-5). Nehemiah recalled God's own words in his plea for help.

### Nehemiah 1:10

Recalling God's work in the past (Ex. 32:11), Nehemiah asked Him to help the people again. They belonged to God, and God would hear their prayer and help them. They needed God's power in their lives (Deut. 9:29).

## Leader Tips

### AS YOU READ THIS WEEK...

- Think about and pray for each member of your small group.
- Think through the following questions:
  1. Whom does God bring to mind as I read these verses? Why?
  2. What needs to change in my own life as a result of what I'm reading?
  3. Whom do I need to tell about these verses?

### FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY WE RECOMMEND...

- Bible Commentary: [Bible.org](http://Bible.org)
- Bible Commentary: [DesiringGod.org](http://DesiringGod.org)
- Pronouncing Biblical Words: [Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm](http://Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm)

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