

Nehemiah: Life building

Nehemiah

1 v 1-3



Today we meet Nehemiah for the first time. But first, a history lesson.

History lesson

Jerusalem was the special city of God's people, the Israelites. About 600 years BC (*Before Christ*), Jerusalem was destroyed by the evil Babylonians. Many Israelites were captured and taken to Babylon, 900 miles away.



Later, Babylon was overthrown by the Persians.

Their king encouraged some of the Israelites to return to Jerusalem and start rebuilding the city.



Many years later some Israelites still lived in Persia. Some had important jobs, like **Nehemiah**. He was a servant of the king.

Nehemiah wanted to know how the Israelites in Jerusalem were getting on. Jerusalem was a very special place to Nehemiah and the Israelites. It was where **God's temple** was, showing that God was with His people.

Nehemiah's brother had some bad news for Nehemiah...

Read Nehemiah 1 v 1-3

... and finish what they reported.

Those who survived
are in great _____
_____ (v3)

The wall of Jerusalem
is _____
_____ (v3)

That was a blow to Nehemiah.

When you hear about Christians who are suffering, do **you** care?

Action prayer!

Today and tomorrow, try to find out about Christians around the world who are suffering because of their love for Jesus. Then pray for them!

For more info, check out
www.opendoors.org

WEIRD WORDS

Kislev

November to
December

Twentieth year

... of the reign of
King Artaxerxes.
The year 446 BC.

Citadel

City protected by a
huge wall

Jewish remnant

The Israelites
who remained in
Jerusalem

The exile

When many
Israelites were
forced to leave
Jerusalem and live
far away

Province

Area

Nehemiah 1 v 4-11



The way to pray

What is the first thing you do when you hear bad news?

Nehemiah had just heard that the Israelites in Jerusalem were suffering. He was devastated, but he made sure he **prayed** loads...

Read Nehemiah 1 v 4-11

Fill in the gaps (the answers are top right).

When Nehemiah prayed...

A – verse 5

He said how g_____ God is. He praised God.

B – verses 6-7

He c_____ed that he and all the Israelites had sinned against God.

C – verses 8-9

He remembered God's p_____ to scatter them if they disobeyed Him, and to bring them back if they turned back to God.

D – verse 11

He pleaded for God's h_____ with his plan to ask the king a big favour.



When YOU pray...

A – do you praise our g_____ God?

B – do you c_____ to God the wrong things you have done?

C – do you thank God for his p_____ to forgive people who turn to Him?

D – do you ask for God's h_____ in everything you do?



Pray!

Now try talking to God using the four steps above (A, B, C, D). Go on, give it a go!

WEIRD WORDS

Mourned and fasted

Showed sadness

Covenant of love

God's loving promise to be with His people

Attentive

Paying attention

Unfaithful

Disobeying God

Dwelling

Where God would be among His people

Redeemed

Bought back

Revering

Giving respect

Cupbearer

In charge of the king's wine

Nehemiah

2 v 1-10



Nehemiah was upset that Jerusalem was in ruins and God's people were suffering.

WEIRD WORDS**Nisan**

March to April

City in Judah

Jerusalem

Governors of trans-Euphrates

Rulers near the River Euphrates

Safe-conduct

Safe travel

Residence I will occupy

House I'll live in

Gracious hand

The undeserved kindness that God showed Nehemiah

Cavalry

Soldiers on horses

Welfare

Good living

Keep as-king

So he asked God to help.!

Fill in the missing words from the centre.

Read Nehemiah 2 v 1-3

Nehemiah took w _____
to the k _____ (v1). King
A _____
wanted to know why
Nehemiah was so s _____
(v2). N _____
told the king about
J _____ being in
r _____ (v3).

It was now the month of Nisan—four months since Nehemiah had heard the sad news. He had been praying for four months!

Action!

Don't just pray once and give up. If you're worried about something, keep praying until you know God's answer.

**Read verses 4-10**

Nehemiah was terrified so
he quickly p _____
(v4). Then he asked the
king to send him to
r _____ Jerusalem
(v5). Amazingly, it
p _____ the king to
send Nehemiah (v6)!



The king even gave
him l _____ (v7)
to make sure he had a
s _____ journey (v7), and
w _____ for building
(v8). It was all down to
G _____ (v8).

**Wow!**

While Nehemiah was talking to the king, he quickly prayed to God for help. We can talk to God at ANY TIME, IN ANY PLACE. He always hears us.

God answered Nehemiah's prayers brilliantly! But verse 10 hints that Nehemiah might have some enemies when he starts rebuilding Jerusalem. More about that tomorrow...

**Pray!**

What do you need to talk to God about?

So start talking to Him...

Artaxerxes God Jerusalem king letters Nehemiah pleased prayed rebuild ruins sad safe wine wood

All about God

Nehemiah 2 v 11-20



Nehemiah went to Jerusalem to see how much rebuilding would be needed.

Read Nehemiah 2 v 11-20

Complete Nehemiah's words.

I had not told anyone what _____ had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem (v12)

I told them about the gracious hand of _____ upon me and how He had helped me (v18)

The _____ of heaven will give us success (v20)

Everything Nehemiah said was about God. He wanted to rebuild Jerusalem to bring glory to God. And he knew that God was helping him do this difficult task.



Think!

Do you talk about God enough? When something good happens in your life, do you give God the glory He deserves?

Do you let people know that God is important to you?



Read verses 19-20 again

Sanballat and his henchmen teased and ridiculed Nehemiah and the Israelites for trying to rebuild Jerusalem. But Nehemiah told them that **God would give them success.**

When we serve God we'll sometimes get mocked and laughed at. *Cross out all the Ks, Xs and Zs to find an awesome verse from the book of Romans.*

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | X | U | T | S | Z | Z | X | |
| X | I | Z | S | K | N | I | A | G |
| Z | F | K | ? | X | X | K | K | A |
| O | G | X | Z | Z | K | X | X | E |
| D | Z | K | X | K | Z | A | N | B |
| I | S | F | O | X | X | C | X | K |
| Z | K | X | R | Z | K | O | K | X |
| K | X | Z | U | S | W | H | X | Z |

If _____

(Romans 8 v 31)



Pray!

Don't be put off by people teasing you for living God's way. God is far more powerful than them! Ask God to help you serve Him and put up with any teasing you get.

WEIRD WORDS

Mounts

Horses

Jews

Israelites living in Jerusalem

Nobles

Rich people

Officials

People with important jobs

Disgrace

People mocked them

Gracious

Incredibly kind

Rebelling

Disobeying