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# Bethel Gospel Tabernacle



**C.A.R.E. SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

## C.A.R.E. Study Material

# Book of Nehemiah

*And daily in the temple, and in every house,  
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

(Acts 5:42 (KJV))



For more information on the C.A.R.E. Ministry  
Please email [CARE@bgtintl.com](mailto:CARE@bgtintl.com) or call the Church office  
**C**hrist-Like **A**pproach in **R**eaching **E**veryone

Copies of this Study Material can be found on the Bethel Website:  
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# 1. NEHEMIAH 1:1-11

Nehemiah was crushed when he heard the news: The people who returned to Jerusalem were in shame and defeat. They had been defeated by setback after setback. When Nehemiah could collect his thoughts, he began to pray. He reminded himself, as much as God, of God's promises to his people. God had fulfilled these promises in the past. He surely would fulfill his promises in the future.

## **OPEN**

1. If you were going through a painful experience, what would you want your friends to do for you?

## **EXPLORE**

2. What report did Hanani and his men give to Nehemiah? (1:3)
3. How did Nehemiah react to the news about Jerusalem and the exiles? (1:4)
4. What is the major theme of Nehemiah's prayer? (1:5-11)
5. What promise of God could the Israelites claim, according to Nehemiah? (1:9)

## **GET IT**

6. What are the benefits of focusing on the attributes of God?
7. How do you think you need to change your prayer habits?
8. Why does God want Christians to pray?
9. What can we learn from Nehemiah's example about how to deal with disappointment?

## **APPLY**

10. How do you plan to react differently to setbacks from now on?

## 2. NEHEMIAH 2:1-10

Nehemiah wanted to help his people, but he needed the king's help to do it. When the king gave him an opportunity to speak, Nehemiah whispered a prayer before responding. Then he boldly asked for a leave of absence and safe passage to travel to his people. God honored Nehemiah's prayer. The king allowed him to go to Jerusalem.

### **OPEN**

1. How would you go about asking a big favor of a boss or other influential person?

### **EXPLORE**

2. What did the king assume about Nehemiah's demeanor? (2:2)
3. What did Nehemiah have to overcome to give the king an honest answer? (2:2-3)
4. What did Nehemiah do before he told the king what he wanted? (2:4)
5. What did Nehemiah ask of the king? (2:5-7)

### **GET IT**

6. To you what were Nehemiah's most admirable traits?
7. How did Nehemiah demonstrate his dependence on God?
8. What fears do you need to overcome?
9. How can you handle differently the challenges you face in light of Nehemiah's example?

### **APPLY**

10. How can you remember to pray each time you must deal with a problem or fear?

### 3. NEHEMIAH 2:11-20

Nehemiah's critics were Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem. While Nehemiah was cheering the people on in their hard work for God, these three were jeering at him and discouraging the people. Nehemiah was prepared though. He did not back down in the face of criticism. He stood his ground and answered their criticism.

#### **OPEN**

1. How do you usually respond to criticism?

#### **EXPLORE**

2. What strategy did Nehemiah use in surveying the state of the city? (2:11-16)
3. How did Nehemiah prepare himself to present his plan to the Jews? (2:11-16)
4. What encouragement did Nehemiah offer those people who may have initially doubted his plan? (2:18)
5. How did Nehemiah respond to his critics? (2:20)

#### **GET IT**

6. What can we learn from Nehemiah's example of leadership?
7. In what specific ways could you emulate Nehemiah to become a better leader in your family, on the job, or in some other setting?
8. How can you prepare yourself to deal with criticism better in the future?
9. Why do you think Nehemiah was so confident that God would grant him success?

#### **APPLY**

10. What specific steps could you take in the next few days to anticipate criticism and handle it in a way that gives glory to God?

## 4. NEHEMIAH 3:1-32

The Israelites divided the wall into sections. Each group took the responsibility for repairing certain areas. As each gate or portion of the wall was repaired, it was dedicated to God's service. Men from every trade—priests and perfume makers, Levites and goldsmiths—worked side by side. They trusted God and courageously faced the challenge.

### **OPEN**

1. What are the benefits of teamwork?

### **EXPLORE**

2. What did the priests do when they had completed sections of the walls and gates of Jerusalem? (3:1)
3. What project were the Israelites working on? (3:1)
4. What does the priests' dedication of their work reveal about their motivation? (3:1)
5. What kinds of people were involved in rebuilding Jerusalem? (3:1-32)

### **GET IT**

6. Why do you think the people of Jerusalem were so committed to rebuilding the city walls?
7. What can we learn from the priests' example in this situation?
8. What does this passage reveal about the best way to accomplish an overwhelming task?
9. How can you depend more on God's help to accomplish the work he has given you to do?

### **APPLY**

10. What steps can you take this week to depend on God and others to help you face the challenges in your life?

## 5. NEHEMIAH 4:1-23

The inhabitants of Jerusalem were growing weary as they repaired the walls. Their opposition mocked them and devalued their work. Finally in an attempt to renew their commitment to the project, Nehemiah stationed armed citizens at the broken sections of the wall. These warriors served to remind the people to fight for each other and work together. With this determined action on Nehemiah's part, the work continued.

### **OPEN**

1. Why do you think some people get upset when they see others succeed?

### **EXPLORE**

2. What did Sanballat and Tobiah do to discourage the Jews from rebuilding the city walls? (4:1-3)
3. What role did Nehemiah play in these events? (4:1-23)
4. How did Nehemiah respond to the taunts of his enemies? (4:4-5)
5. What did Nehemiah do to encourage the Israelites and protect them from their enemies? (4:10-14)

### **GET IT**

6. What do you admire about the Israelites in this incident?
7. To what area of life today do Nehemiah's words speak?
8. How should we respond to negative events or criticism from others?
9. To what project or work do you need to renew your commitment?

### **APPLY**

10. What specific steps could you take this week to renew your commitment to a project you believe is important to accomplish?

## 6. NEHEMIAH 5:1-19

The poor Israelites were becoming devastated because of the financial burdens their fellow citizens had placed upon them. The poor were going deeper into debt to buy food, and they were losing their private property because of their debt. Nehemiah pleaded with the Jewish leadership to treat their brothers with mercy. Even though Nehemiah was an important official, he honored God by hearing the concerns of the poor and remedying the deplorable situation.

### **OPEN**

1. How do you feel when solicitors ask you to give your time or money to charity?

### **EXPLORE**

2. What is the conflict between some of the Jews at the beginning of this story? (5:1-5)
3. How did Nehemiah react to the Israelites' complaints? (5:6)
4. What action did Nehemiah take on behalf of the Israelites? (5:7-18)
5. What prevented Nehemiah from acting the same way the other officials did? (5:15)

### **GET IT**

6. In what ways is Nehemiah a role model for us today?
7. What does it mean to be devoted to the work God has given us, as was Nehemiah?
8. Why do you think Nehemiah sacrificed what he rightfully deserved as a governor?
9. How would you like to contribute to solving a particular social problem that concerns you?

### **APPLY**

10. What concrete action could you take this week to help solve a social problem?



## 7. NEHEMIAH 6:1-14

Tobiah and Sanballat were relentless in trying to pull Nehemiah away from his work. They sent messages. They intimidated him. Each time, Nehemiah resisted their influence because it was not from God. Their efforts only served to strengthen his commitment to the work God had called him to do.

### **OPEN**

1. What would you tell a child who was being picked on by a bully?

### **EXPLORE**

2. What motivated Sanballat and his associates to summon Nehemiah? (6:1-2)
3. What did Sanballat ask of Nehemiah? (6:2)
4. How did Nehemiah respond to Sanballat's accusations? (6:8)
5. Why did Nehemiah refuse to back down as his opponents wanted? (6:12-13)

### **GET IT**

6. What basic principles did Nehemiah follow when he faced opposition?
7. In what ways is Nehemiah a good example for us to follow?
8. When do you think it is important to fight back, and when is it better to back down?
9. How can you prevent yourself from being distracted from the work God has given you?

### **APPLY**

10. What specific steps can you take to strengthen your commitment to the responsibilities God has given you?

## 8. NEHEMIAH 6:15 – 7:73

Nehemiah continued organizing the people and encouraging strong leaders. With each completed task, he evaluated God's plan for the next challenge. God led him to begin registering the people by family. He enriched their sense of heritage and thus their sense of God's promise, by his obedience in this work.

### **OPEN**

1. What do you think are the most important attributes in a good leader?

### **EXPLORE**

2. Who was given credit for Israel's success, even by their enemies? (6:16)
3. Why was it necessary for guards to be posted around the walls of Jerusalem? (6:17–7:3)
4. How did Nehemiah choose the men to put in charge over Jerusalem? (7:2)
5. What motivated Nehemiah to organize the genealogical record of the Israelites? (7:5)

### **GET IT**

6. How did God lead Nehemiah?
7. In light of Nehemiah's example, what criteria should we follow in choosing leaders?
8. How can we develop integrity so that God can use us as leaders?
9. What role can you play in assuring the careful selection of leaders in your church?

### **APPLY**

10. How can you focus on following God's leading this week?

## 9. NEHEMIAH 8:1-18

From early morning to midday the people listened to the word of God. They were led in worship by Ezra, then they were taught by the Levites. They learned not just what God's law said, but also what it meant. The Levites instructed the people to give of what they had and to celebrate with great joy.

### **OPEN**

1. When or in what circumstances do you find it easy to be enthusiastic about what you are doing?

### **EXPLORE**

2. What attitude did the people of Israel have toward the Book of the Law? (8:3, 6, 9, 17)
3. What did the people do when Ezra OPENed the Book of the Law? (8:5)
4. What specific steps did Ezra and the other leaders take to make this event practical for everyone? (8:5-8)
5. How had the events of this day changed the lives of the people of Israel? (8:12)

### **GET IT**

6. How would you describe Israel's view of God's Word?
7. In what specific ways are Israel's actions in this passage a good model for us today?
8. How should we follow the example of the leaders of Israel in this story?
9. Generally speaking, how should we respond to God's Word?

### **APPLY**

10. What specific changes do you want to make in your Bible-reading habits this week?

## 10. NEHEMIAH 9:1 - 37

The people went to great lengths to demonstrate, as well as communicate, their repentance to God. They dressed the part. They acted the part. They humbled themselves before God, worshiping him and laying before him their circumstances.

### **OPEN**

1. When has it been helpful for you to look back at your past and think about what you have gone through?

### **EXPLORE**

2. How did the Israelites demonstrate their spirit of repentance? (9:1)
3. Why did the Levites offer praise to God? (9:5-15)
4. What were some of the ways God provided for and protected the people of Israel? (9:5-15)
5. What request did the Levites present to God? (9:32-36)

### **GET IT**

6. What sinful pattern did Israel repeat?
7. If you wrote a passage about your own history of walking with God, what themes would you see?
8. How does remembering God's provision for you in the past encourage you?
9. What should we do to restore our relationship with God whenever we realize we have been acting selfishly?

### **APPLY**

10. When can you take some time this week for confession and recommitment to obeying God?

# 11. NEHEMIAH 9:38 – 10:39

The Israelites wanted to make a contract—a binding agreement—with God. They wanted to commit totally to following his commands and honoring the Temple. They offered their firstborn sons and cattle as a sign of this commitment. They told God unwaveringly, “We will not ignore the Temple.”

## **OPEN**

1. When is a written contract important?

## **EXPLORE**

2. Why did the people of Israel want to make a binding agreement? (9:38)
3. What were the specifics of the oath between God and the people of Israel? (10:30-39)
4. In what ways did the people promise to care for the priests and the Temple? (10:34-39)
5. What was significant about the people’s offering that demonstrated their commitment to God and their respect for the Temple? (10:36-38)

## **GET IT**

6. What prompted the Israelites to renew their commitment to God?
7. When have difficult circumstances in your life motivated you to seek God?
8. Why do you think it sometimes takes negative experiences to refocus our attention on God?
9. How can it be helpful to write a declaration of commitment to God?

## **APPLY**

10. When could you set aside some time to write down your commitment to serve God?

## 12. NEHEMIAH 11:1 - 13:31

Nehemiah took no chances with the holiness of the Sabbath. He locked the gates and placed Levites as guards. He allowed no one to trade. Nehemiah was committed to helping the Hebrews keep their oath to God in every way that he could. In all of this, Nehemiah's prayer was that God would be glorified in the Israelites' obedience.

### **OPEN**

1. How do you like to spend your weekends?

### **EXPLORE**

2. Why were the Levites sought out and brought to Jerusalem? (12:27-30)
3. How did Israel celebrate the completion of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem? (12:27-47)
4. Of what sins were the people of Israel guilty? (13:15-16, 23-24)
5. What action did Nehemiah take to insure Israel kept the Sabbath holy? (13:19-22)

### **GET IT**

6. What does this passage reveal about how believers should respond to the written Word of God?
7. What responsibility do you think Christians have to keep each other accountable?
8. How do you need to change your actions or attitudes toward church or worship?
9. What have you learned from this story about respecting the Sabbath?

### **APPLY**

10. In what way can you renew your commitment to a day of worship?