



## **NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 2 (FACILITATOR)**

### **Discussion Starter**

- Who is one of the most influential people that you know? What, in your opinion makes them that way?
- **Opening Prayer**
  - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

### **Tell the Story**

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

### **Read the Story (Nehemiah 2:1-20)**

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

### **Breaking it Down**

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

### **Nehemiah 2:1-10**

- In Nehemiah 2:1, when it says, "when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king," this lets the readers know that Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the king. This may not seem very important but in those days, being a cupbearer to the king was an extremely important position because it meant that Nehemiah would taste the wine first before it was given to the king to make sure that it wasn't poisoned. Nehemiah's physical life was on the line every single day, but he also used his high position to share God's truth.
  - Do you believe that you have the ability to have influence through God's power among your friends, family, coworkers, etc? Why or why not?

- This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
  - What are the different positions that God has given you to have tremendous influence and impact for Him?
    - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Why is the response of King Artaxerxes' to Nehemiah's sadness significant? What does his response indicate about him and also indicate about Nehemiah?
  - Artaxerxes was a pagan king who claimed no allegiance to God and yet when Nehemiah asks him to go and rebuild the city, Artaxerxes not only grants his request but also makes sure that he has resources to help rebuild the city. Consider that a godless king was willing to help a God filled man for a God driven mission. Artaxerxes' response indicates that Nehemiah's example and lifestyle to him while living in exile made a tremendous impact on him. Artaxerxes was not only willing to listen to Nehemiah's request, but he was also willing to provide him with resources to help him.
    - In what ways do you think your attitude and lifestyle during less than ideal circumstances impacts others in positive ways that point to God?
      - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Nehemiah 2:11-20**

- Why do you believe that Nehemiah inspected the walls?
  - Obviously, there were some "technical" things that he was examining to evaluate the physical conditions of the walls and gates, to consider the amount of physical labor that would be necessary but when we reduce his examination to merely the "technical," we are really missing some important points about the book of Nehemiah because the broken-down walls and gates of Jerusalem indicated the spiritual condition of the people of God.

- Why is the invitation of Nehemiah to his fellow Jews important in verses 17 & 18?
  - Nehemiah understood that the job of “rebuilding the walls” was a large one that he wasn’t going to be able to complete on his own. More importantly, he was inviting his fellow Jews to take action and ownership on rebuilding the walls that represented the spiritual condition of the Jews.
  - What brothers and sisters in Jesus are you currently locking arms with to further advance Jesus’ love and mission on this earth? How are you doing this and what does this look like?
    - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- How do you think Nehemiah was able to respond to Sanballat and Tobiah so boldly and courageously?
  - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
  - When you know you are doing God’s will, does resistance/opposition come as a surprise to you? Why or why not?
    - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.
  - How do you handle resistance and opposition when you know you are doing God’s will?
    - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### **Closing & Prayer Requests**

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Nehemiah Chapter 4)



## **NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 2 (STUDENT)**

### **Discussion Starter**

- Who is one of the most influential people that you know? What, in your opinion makes them that way?
- **Opening Prayer**
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### **Tell the Story**

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### **Nehemiah 2:11-20**

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- How do you think Nehemiah was able to respond to Sanballat and Tobiah so boldly and courageously?
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