

NOTES & QUESTIONS

WHERE PEOPLE MEET GOD

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NEHEMIAH 1:1-11

Introduction

1. _____ the Situation (vv.1-4)

2. Ask God for _____ (vv.5-9)

- _____ for God's attributes
- _____ of sin
- _____ for revival

3. Anticipate _____ (vv.10, 11)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

Ice-breakers: Describe a special place (i.e. location) from your past where something memorable happened in your life. Describe a spiritually significant moment that you've experienced at Christ Community Church.

1. List at least 5 things you know about the historical context and storyline of the book of Nehemiah.
2. Read Psalm 132:13, 14 and II Chronicles 7:11-16. Why was the city of Jerusalem so important? Explain. How is this similar to the importance of local churches today?
3. Read Nehemiah 1:1-4. How did Nehemiah learn about the situation in Jerusalem (since he lived 800 miles away in Susa)? Why was it critical for Jerusalem to have strong walls? Why do you think the word "disgrace" was used to describe Jerusalem's condition? How and why did Nehemiah respond to this news?
4. What is meant by the expression "the dechurching of America"? Is this situation surprising to you? Why or why not? Why should Christ followers be as broken-hearted about this trend as Nehemiah was about the condition of Jerusalem?
5. Read Nehemiah 1:4-6a and circle the words prayed/prayer/praying in your Bible. Why is it better to use prayer as a first resort, instead of as a last resort? What does Nehemiah praise God for in the first part of his prayer? Why is it a good idea, in desperate situations, to start our prayers with praise (multiple answers)?
6. Describe a difficult situation that you currently face (family, job, health, finances, etc.). What 3 or 4 attributes of God (characteristics/names/titles) could comfort and strengthen you in this situation? Explain. (Note: There's a list of 250 of these attributes posted at ccclife.org and the mobile app.)
7. Read Nehemiah 1:6, 7. Nehemiah turns to the confession of sin in the second part of his prayer. Why was confession important in light of the destitute condition of Jerusalem? Why is confession necessary as we face the dechurching of America? What sins (both generally speaking and our own) might contribute to the undermining of churches' vitality and mission?
8. Read Nehemiah 1:8, 9. What hope do you see in these verses for Jerusalem's condition? What hope is there for dwindling churches today? How is Christ Community Church planning to play a role in the revitalization of churches? (Bonus from the sermon: How does the story of our Huntley Campus confirm this mission?)
9. Read Nehemiah 1:10. Who is "the man" that Nehemiah refers to and what is the nature of Nehemiah's relationship with him? How does Nehemiah hope to leverage this relationship for the benefit of Jerusalem?
10. This sermon concluded with a challenge to begin praying about 2 matters in anticipation of Christ Community Church's "Places Need Churches" campaign. What are those two matters, and why is each of them important to the success of our mission? What do you think God might do in your life as you pray for this campaign?