



Unit 1 Guide

SERIES: LESSONS ON THE POWER OF COMBINED EFFORT

Lesson #1: “Joining Together to Look for the Broken”

Nehemiah 1:1-11

Announcements and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** If you had the power to change one thing in this world, what would it be?

Transition: When man first fell from grace by misusing his free will to disobey God, what was God’s response?

The Bottom Line: God wants us to be broken over a broken world. God wants us to care enough to take His plan and to join together and look for the broken.

LESSON PLAN



Denotes “Apply”

Question – What was Jesus’ instructions to the apostles just before He ascended into Heaven?

God is the same yesterday, today and forever and God loves His creation and wants them to be with Him in worship forever.

Question - When you hear bad news about people you care about, what is your typical reaction/response? Do you get involved? Why?

Background – John MacArthur says, “The book of Nehemiah is a wonderful primer for anyone who faces a daunting situation and needs to be reminded that deep trust in and unflinching obedience to Almighty God can result in the accomplishment of the “impossible.” Nehemiah is a book about dreaming big dreams, about solving monumental problems, about the power of prayer, about standing strong in the face of harsh opposition, and about motivating people and leading groups to do great works for a great God.”

“Nehemiah was neither a priest nor a prophet. He was a layman in a unique and remarkable position of influence. As cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia, Nehemiah enjoyed a life of privilege and access. He was a trusted civil servant-likely present during high-level meetings and probably advising the most powerful man on earth on matters of state.

What will happen when this faithful man of God hears that his countrymen back in Jerusalem are facing ridicule and danger because the city's walls and gates are in shambles? How will Nehemiah's faith manifest itself in a way that brings glory to God? Those are the issues and situations in Nehemiah 1." The book is most likely written by Ezra as he recorded a second letter that was telling the story of this great prophet and man of God. It later was given the name Nehemiah instead of 2nd Ezra.

Read Nehemiah 1:1-4



Here is a nice touch from God through Archaeology. Letters written on papyri have been discovered in Egypt on the Island of Elephantini in the Nile River which confirms that Sanballat, the man stated as leading the opposition against Nehemiah lived during Nehemiah's time. It also mentions the Jewish name Johanan (Neh.12:23). The letters also describe the overall political situation at the time and it matches exactly what Nehemiah describes.

While in exile, Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the Persian King Artaxerxes.. As an escort of the monarch at meals, the cupbearer had a unique opportunity to petition the king. Not only did the king owe him his life since the cupbearer tested all the king's beverages for possible poison, thus putting his own life at risk, but he also became a close confidant. He is setting pretty for a slave in a foreign land.

1. Was God's servant concerned with those less fortunate than him?
2. What does Nehemiah seek to find out?
3. What had happened to the exiles and to Jerusalem?
- Ⓜ How does that disgrace happen within the walls of Jesus' church?
- Ⓜ How do we seek out the health of the church and those who make up the church?
4. What is Nehemiah's response at the news of Jerusalem's trials?
- Ⓜ What is our reaction when the church is attacked and its people are not living in the beauty of the holiness God?



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share their practical ideas: How can we be more like Nehemiah praying over our church and its people? What are some specific ideas that will soften our hearts with compassion like his?

Read Nehemiah 1:5-11

5. Notice that Nehemiah fasts, prays and weeps for several days before he is ready to get down to addressing God. He is now ready to ask for the right things from His God. How does Nehemiah begin His prayer? (*With praise. Write headings on board: **Praise** [v. 5] - You are God of Heaven. You are great. You are awesome. You keep your covenant of love with those who love You and obey Your commands.*)
6. Have you ever prepared to undertake a great task by praising God?
7. Pikes Peak Christian Church is beginning a substantial undertaking to develop the room for expanding our ministry possibilities for Christ. What can we offer in praise to prepare our hearts for the task before us?
8. What is the second part of Nehemiah's prayer? (*On board: **Request** [v. 6a] – Listen attentively, hear and see the prayer I am lifting up day and night for those suffering in Israel.*)
9. How would you phrase that prayer concerning our mission to grow the family of God in a wise and healthy manner?
10. What is the third part of Nehemiah's prayer? (*On board: **Confession** [vv. 6b-7] – admitted his own sin and the peoples' sin.*)
11. Where has the church fallen short over the years and not obeyed Christ?
12. How does Nehemiah use Scripture to frame his prayer request? (*on board: **Praying Promises** [vv.8-10] – promises to Moses concerning God's people; God is faithful to those who will repent and obey once again; You made their freedom possible by Your great power*)
13. What are some of the promises of God we can lift up in prayer as we approach the capital stewardship campaign and being faithful to build spiritually and physically for Christ?
14. Have you thought much about laying God's promises to you before Him? What are some promises of God you would like to share with Him as you tackle your life of faith every day?
15. How does Nehemiah prepare for the mission he is about to undertake as he intercedes for the people and temple of God? (*He prays for success by specifically asking God to make his approach to the King acceptable, that the King would be gracious and allow him to take up*

*this task that his compassion has overwhelmed him to take up. You could add to the board that he was **Praying Specifically.**)*

- ⑥ What are some of the specific requests, concerning things you need to tackle for God, would you like to share with our Lord this morning?



CARING TIME: SHARE AND PRAY

Close with a Prayer Time: *If time allows, share your greatest heartfelt concerns for others, those who are broken, and for the Church of God. Pray for those as a table and then the leader will have a closing prayer at 12:15.*



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20).

