



SERIES: LESSONS ON THE POWER OF COMBINED EFFORT

Lesson #2: “Joining Together to Be Ready” **Nehemiah 2:1-20**

Announcements and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What is the strangest look you have ever seen on a person's face?

Transition: You can almost always tell when something is wrong with someone you know. It shows in their spirit. It's very difficult to hide our pain. However, pain can be a good thing because it can move us toward opportunity. Today we want to look at just such a door.

The Bottom Line: When God opens a door, be ready to walk through it, and then go!

LESSON PLAN



Denotes “Apply”

Read Nehemiah 2:1-2

1. What was significant about Nehemiah's statement that he had not been sad in the presence of the king before?

King Nebuchadnezzar attacked Judah and carried Daniel and others off to Babylon in captivity. In 586 BC Judah and Jerusalem were completely conquered. Nehemiah would have been born in Babylon but obviously raised and taught by godly Jewish parents who had not forsaken their faith, even in captivity. Nehemiah grows up worshiping God and yet rises to be the cupbearer to the King. Obviously, he lived his life as a servant despite the circumstance and yet never allowed the culture of his entire life to affect his faith.

2. What truth did King Artaxerxes (pronounced ar-tax-zerksees) reveal?

 **How could this truth relate to our church?**

⌚ How could this relate to each of us who love Christ?

3. What does Nehemiah's heart tell you about his parents?

⌚ What lessons can a parent or a youth learn from Nehemiah's story?

Read Nehemiah 2:3-9

4. What was tearing at Nehemiah's heart?

5. What does he do before answering the king's question?

⌚ He wants to go back and rebuild Jerusalem. What is that going to cost him?

The cupbearer was considered an administrative office of incredibly high position. He not only tasted the King's wine, but was allowed in the presence of the king and queen. It was a senior position in the company.

6. Nehemiah is in the presence of the king and queen. What does Nehemiah ask the King for besides the freedom to go back to Jerusalem?

⌚ Who do you know of who has asked others to give generously for the rebuilding of God's house?

⌚ What are some of the things that lie in ruin and disgrace within the church, Jesus' body on earth?

⌚ What lessons does Nehemiah point out to us about the heart of someone who longs to rebuild for God's glory? (We are willing to sacrifice and take great risk for the sake of rebuilding what is broken.)

7. To whom does Nehemiah give credit for getting everything he asked for?



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: *When was the hand of God upon you in a way that incredible things happened to bless your ministry?*

Read Nehemiah 2:10-20

8. Was everyone excited about Nehemiah's great new journey for God?
9. What did Nehemiah say caused the Jewish people, the priests, the nobles and officials to get on board and go to work on the temple?

⦿ Do you know a time when God provided for you when it seemed hopeless?

⦿ What could you do to rally God's people to be focused on building this church?

10. What was Nehemiah accused of when the building was about to start?

11. What is his reply to those who are mocking, ridiculing and accusing him?

⦿ What lesson could we take from that reply to the skeptics and the mockers of God's workers?

CARING TIME: SHARE AND PRAY

Close with a Prayer Time: *Pray that God gives you the boldness of Nehemiah and the willingness of those he was leading to build His church in all His glory!*



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: "If God is for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31).