

# NEHEMIAH

Re: BUILD  
Re: NEW  
Re: FORM

## Re: GROUP

### STUDY GUIDE: Nehemiah's Response to Bad News

Text: Nehemiah 1:4-11

#### INTRODUCTION

Life-changing events often begin with small moments. Nehemiah asked about Jerusalem and the exiles, and the answer he received altered the course of his life. His response to bad news provides a powerful example of prayer, repentance, and faith in God's promises.

#### ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever received news that changed your life's direction? How did you respond?
2. Can you recall a time when you heard something so overwhelming that you had to sit down?

#### I. Nehemiah's Recognition (Nehemiah 1:4-7)

**Nehemiah grieved when he heard the news about Jerusalem, but he also turned to prayer and fasting.**

3. What does Nehemiah's immediate reaction teach us about handling difficult news?
4. When faced with crises, do you naturally turn to prayer or rely on your own strength?
5. Why did Nehemiah include fasting in his response? What role does fasting play in seeking God? (<https://www.gotquestions.org/fasting-Christian.html>)
6. Why was Nehemiah's confession of both personal and national sin significant?
7. What sins did Nehemiah acknowledge, and why is it important for us to recognize our own sins before God?

#### II. Nehemiah's Reminder (Nehemiah 1:8-10)

**Nehemiah reminded God of His promises—not because God forgets, but as a way to express faith and confidence in His Word.**

8. Why do you think Nehemiah reminded God of His covenant with Moses?
9. How does praying God's promises strengthen our faith?
10. Nehemiah had confidence that God would remain faithful. How does remembering God's faithfulness encourage us today?
11. What promises from Scripture do you hold onto in difficult times?

### **III. Nehemiah's Request (Nehemiah 1:11)**

**Nehemiah boldly asked for success before approaching the king, demonstrating his faith in both prayer and action.**

12. What was Nehemiah's specific request to God in verse 11?
13. How did Nehemiah balance his faith in God with taking practical steps for change?
14. Nehemiah prayed before approaching the king. How does this show the importance of seeking God's favor before making important decisions?
15. How does Nehemiah's position as cupbearer reveal God's providence?

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

Nehemiah's story challenges us to respond to difficulties with faith, prayer, and action.

16. When faced with a challenge, do you tend to react emotionally or prayerfully? How can you develop a more prayerful response?
17. Nehemiah had confidence in God's promises. How can you grow in your trust in God's faithfulness?
18. What lessons from Nehemiah's prayer life can you apply to your own prayers?
19. Are there areas in your life where you need to confess sin and turn back to God?
20. Nehemiah prayed for success before taking action. What situation in your life requires you to seek God's favor and wisdom today?

### **CLOSING REFLECTION**

Nehemiah teaches us that recognizing the problem, repenting of sin, and relying on God's promises are key steps in facing difficult situations. Take time this week to apply these principles in your own life.