

Nehemiah Principles – First Step to Everything – Nehemiah 1-2

Message Discussion Guide

Connect

- If you could visit one city where you have never been, what city would you visit. Why?

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Esther 4:10-16.
 - Both Esther and Nehemiah seemed to be at the right place at the right time to make an impact for the Kingdom of God. How often do you think God orchestrates these kinds of situations?
 - How can you recognize that God has put you where you are for a special reason?
 - Both Esther and Nehemiah could have concluded that their situation was hopeless when it was really a time of great opportunity. How does this encourage us when we seem to be in dark times?
- Read Nehemiah 1:4 and Nehemiah 2:4-5.
 - How were Nehemiah's two prayers similar? How were they different?
 - What role should Nehemiah's 1:4 prayer play in our lives? What about his 2:4 prayer?
- Read Nehemiah 1:5-11.
 - Identify at least four categories of things Nehemiah prayed about before he made his request in verse 11.
 - When Nehemiah issued his request (vs. 11), what exactly did he ask for? How does this differ from the way we often pray? What can we learn from Nehemiah's model prayer?
- Read Philippians 4:11-13 and Ephesians 3:20-21.
 - What was Nehemiah's attitude when he faced the impossible task of rebuilding the walls and restoring God's people while serving as a slave to a pagan king and living 800 miles away?
 - What should be our attitude when we face impossible challenges?

Respond

- If Nehemiah had looked for excuses not to rebuild the walls, what excuses would he have cited? How would you have counselled him to move forward?
- We are all Nehemiahs! God has prepared a task for us to further his Kingdom. What is he calling you do to? How can you use Nehemiah's plan to get started in achieving an impossible task for the Lord?

Bonus for Thinkers

- Why did God allow the Jews to be scattered and Jerusalem to be brought to ruins only to use Ezra and Nehemiah to rebuild the city 70 years later? How does this both warn and encourage Christians today?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (8/26)	Nehemiah 1:1-2:5
Tuesday (8/27)	1 John 1:1-10
Wednesday (8/28)	1 John 2:1-29
Thursday (8/29)	1 John 3:1-24
Friday (8/30)	1 John 4:1-21

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (8/26) — Nehemiah 1

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

Tuesday (8/27) — 1 John 1:1-10

- First John 1:1-3 speaks of what was seen, heard, and touched. What would it have been like to have had that kind of closeness to Jesus?
- In 1:6, John is warning against a common hypocrisy. What is that hypocrisy? How have you been guilty of that this week?
- According to 1:8, what is one source of self-deception? What is something you can do to avoid this dangerous pitfall?
- The Lord promises to both forgive and to cleanse (1:9). What is the difference?

Wednesday (8/28) — 1 John 2:1-29

- What does John say is the proof that we really “know Jesus” in 2:3-5? Why do you think John connects knowing Jesus with this one thing? What does one have to do with the other?
- John says that if you hate others then you are living in darkness. According to 2:9-11, this darkness means two negative things are true of you. What are they?
- In 2:15 we are instructed not to love the world. What does John mean by “love the world?” (Hint: 2:16.) What are some indicators in your life that you have too much love for the world?
- Read 1 John 2:1. In what ways does Jesus advocate for us before the Father?

Thursday (8/29) — 1 John 3:1-24

- We learn in 3:2 that when Jesus appears, we will be changed to be like him in purity. Since this is true, a desire should grow within every Christian to become like him now (3:3). Write down three areas of your life where you fall short and ask God to help you change in those areas.
- Most know that Jesus died to take away the penalty of sin, but he also died to do something else. According to 3:5, what else did Jesus die to do?
- John gives an example of what love looks like in 3:17. Then he challenges us to let our love be seen in our deeds not just our words (3:18). So, summarize the example John gives in 3:17, and write down one way you can better demonstrate your love for someone this week.

Friday (8/30) — 1 John 4:1-21

- John warns us to test every person who comes to preach or teach on Christ’s behalf (4:1). In 4:2-3 he gives us one way to test those people. What way does he give us? What are other ways we test the teaching/preaching of those who speak to us?
- John says that he who is in us is greater than he who is in the world (4:4). Write down three ways that is a comfort to all believers.
- First John 4:20-21 is such an important passage and one that we often overlook. Write these two verses out in your own words.
- In 1 John 4:9-11, how did God give us both a definition and a demonstration of his love? What can we learn from this?