

A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of May 10, 2020

Let Your Ear Be Attentive

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Nehemiah 1:1-11](#).

¹The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Now it happened in the month of Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, ²that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."

⁴As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ⁵And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people

of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. ⁸Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.' ¹⁰They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man."

Now I was cupbearer to the king.

- **What is your response** when you receive bad news about someone you care deeply about?
- What **news does Nehemiah hear** about his beloved Jerusalem (3) and how does he **respond** (4)?
- Nehemiah spends nearly 4 months in lament after he learns about the degradation of God's people & city. **How does such a long season of lament strike you?** How long is it okay to not be okay?
- Nehemiah's prayer (5-11) reflects a lifetime worshipping God and studying His Word. Even though Nehemiah lives in exile among people of pagan beliefs, he trusts the character of the LORD and clings to God's promises. What does **Nehemiah's prayer show us he believes?**
- Nehemiah's prayer connects to the big story of God's redemption and restoration. God will ultimately answer this prayer by sending Jesus Christ to atone for our sins, restore us to Himself, and make all things new. **What trouble are you facing** right now? How does **facing that trouble connect you to God's greater plan** of redemption?
- Nehemiah confesses the sins of his people, his household, and his own sin (6-7). When you pray, **do you confess sin in this way?** Why?
- Nehemiah asks God to remember His promises (8-9). God does not need to be reminded? **Why does Nehemiah remind Him?**
- One of the big themes of the book of Nehemiah is the steadfast love of the Lord to His covenant people—even in our disobedience. How have **you seen the steadfast love of the Lord** this week?

Pray in response to God's Word

- Ask Him for **forgiveness**
- **Thank** the Lord for His promises, faithfulness, and steadfast love
- **Cry out** to Jesus for the restoration of all things