

APPLICATION GUIDE

Use the questions below for personal reflection or discussion with your family or friends as we seek to not only hear the Word but believe it and live accordingly.

1. We go through a book of the Old Testament each year in the months leading up to Christmas as a way to anticipate the hope that is found only in Jesus. What are some things you might do (either old habits or new ones) to get your eyes set on Jesus over the next couple of months?
2. It's difficult to rightly understand many parts of the Old Testament if you aren't sure about how the book you're in relates to the rest of the Old Testament. Try summarizing the storyline of the Old Testament in one paragraph. Why is it important for Christians to have a grasp of the Old Testament?
3. The report that Nehemiah received revealed that things were not going well in Jerusalem (**Nehemiah 1:1-3**). When in your life have you received a bad report? How did you respond?
4. When there's a problem, what is your typical response? Do you leave it alone and hope someone else fixes it? Do you make a plan and take action to solve it? What can we learn from Nehemiah's response in **Nehemiah 1:4**?
5. Look at the flow of Nehemiah's prayer in **Nehemiah 1:5-11**. How is that similar to or different from the way you typically pray? What components of Nehemiah's prayer do you want to incorporate into your prayer life?
6. At the very end of **Nehemiah 1:11**, we see a hint as to how God will answer Nehemiah's prayer. When in your life have you been able to look back and see that God was already at work answering your prayer before you any idea what He was doing?



November 8, 2020

Responding to a Bad Report

Nehemiah 1

NEHEMIAH

COMING BACK AND BUILDING UP

When things aren't looking good, stop, pray, and seek God's mercy.

That's the big idea of today's message from Nehemiah 1. Every year in the weeks leading up to Christmas we go through a book of the Old Testament that points us ahead to the hope we have in Jesus.

In Nehemiah, we will see how God uses Nehemiah to lead His people in the rebuilding of Jerusalem and renewal of the covenant.

SERMON NOTES

When things aren't looking good,
stop, pray, and seek God's mercy.

Introduction to Nehemiah

Report: Not Good

Nehemiah 1:1-3

SERMON NOTES

Response: Stop and Pray for God's Mercy

Nehemiah 1:4-11

Stop and Pray (v.4)

Application 1: Stop and Pray

Pray for God's Mercy (vv.5-11)

Application 2: Approaching God with Humility and Boldness

When you pray...

1. ...do you begin by a_____ who God is and what He's like?
2. ...do you come humbly, not asking like you deserve b_____ but c_____ your sin?
3. ...do you know what God has s____ and d____ so that you can pray b_____ according to His will?
4. ...do you pray as one who knows how much you need God's m_____?

A Closing Hint about God's Providence (v.11)

Read and Pray Ahead
Nehemiah 2