



HOUSE GROUPS

HOUSE Groups: Discussion Questions:

Nehemiah 2:1-20

(Key Verse)

Nehemiah 2:18 *"And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to [this] good [work]."*

(Nehemiah 2:1-5): **1** And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, [when] wine [was] before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. **2** Therefore the king said to me, "Why [is] your face sad, since you [are] not sick? This [is] nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid,

Question: Why was it so dangerous for Nehemiah to appear sad before the king?

Read: Proverbs 20:2

Question: Why is that often right before we step out in faith that we can get hit so hard by fear?

Question: How does fear serve as a reminder that we need courage, and strength from the Lord?

(Nehemiah 2:3-5): **3** and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, [lies] waste, and its gates are burned with fire?" **4** Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. **5** And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."

Question: *Hearing & Heeding* — How do we practically take the step of faith from the place of hearing a call from the Lord, and heeding that call?

Question: Why is boldness so important when doing the work of the Lord?

Question: How did asking permission from King Artaxerxes help validate Nehemiah's calling, and speak of his character before the king?

(Nehemiah 2:6-8): **6** Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time. **7** Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors [of the region] beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, **8** "and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which [pertains] to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted [them] to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

Question: How was it evident that the good hand of God was upon Nehemiah?

(Nehemiah 2:9-10): **9** Then I went to the governors [in the region] beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me. **10** When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard [of it], they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel.

Question: Why do you think that it is that the enemy did not want God's people to receive help?

Question: How does one go about breaking the control of evil in one's life, and how would Nehemiah need to go about removing the control from the enemies of God's people?

(Nehemiah 2:11-12): **11** So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. **12** Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode.

Question: Why is it so important to not get ahead of the Lord, but to wait for His perfect timing?

Question: Why is it wise to have a small circle of people to pray with, and speak to about personal matters?

(Nehemiah 2:13-16): **13** And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire. **14** Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but [there was] no room for the animal under me to pass. **15** So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by

the Valley Gate, and so returned. **16** And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work.

Question: Why is time alone with the Lord in preparation for the work He has called you to is so vitally important?

Question: Why is it important for leaders to be self-starters, and to be able to work alone? How does establishing personal work ethic prepare you to lead others?

(Nehemiah 2:17-20): **17** Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we [are] in, how Jerusalem [lies] waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." **18** And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to [this] good [work]. **19** But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard [of it], they laughed at us and despised us, and said, "What [is] this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?" **20** So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem."

Question: How did Nehemiah present the problem, and the solution to the people of Jerusalem?

Question: What is the significance of Nehemiah's enemies laughing at him when he began to do the work of the Lord, and why is it so important to have the perspective laid out in verse 20?