

# Catalyst Home Group

Discussion Questions :: 01/17-21,2010  
**Nehemiah 1:1-2:10**

## Nehemiah In A Nutshell

**Author:** Most likely, Nehemiah, but really unknown. This author also helped write Ezra & 1 & 2 Chronicles.

**Who is Nehemiah?:** A cup bearer for King Artaxerxes (Persia) who moves to Jerusalem and becomes one of Israel's greatest leaders. Nehemiah's story, works and journals are chronicled in the book of Nehemiah.

**Date Written:** Around 430 BC

**Theme of the book:** The story of the man, the mission, the vision, and administration of the rebuilding of the walls around Jerusalem in 445 BC. It's walls and the Temple were destroyed by the Babylonians over 100 years earlier and Nehemiah (living in exile in Persia) is chosen by God to return to Jerusalem to complete the restoration of the city after Ezra led the rebuilding of the Temple.

**What we learn from Nehemiah:** The book of Nehemiah is filled with God-given leadership principles and all that a community can accomplish around a unified vision. As Catalyst seeks to build the vision before us in 2010, Nehemiah will be the Biblical platform by which we build unity, cast vision, empower ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things, and unify us around a common mission. Along the way, you will learn invaluable leadership principles and the importance of teamwork in the church.

## Discussion Questions:

[1] What questions do you have from Sunday's sermon? What stood out to you? What confused you?

[2] When was the last time you were a part of building something bigger than yourself? Who was the leader? What was the vision behind it? What was your role in the project?

[3] Read "Nehemiah In A Nutshell." Now read Nehemiah 1:1-2:10. Why is the news of Jerusalem's wall so devastating to him? How does brokenness compel us to mission?

[4] How did Nehemiah initially respond to the news?

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**Discussion Questions Continued...**

[5] How does Nehemiah's response reflect the heart of Jesus? When was the last time you were broken in this same way? What was it?

[6] Re-read and examine his prayer. What are the components of his prayer? Why does he pray this before petitioning the king? What order/role does prayer play in accomplishing a mission? What happens when we don't pray before acting?

[7] Why now does Nehemiah go to the King and make his request? What do you think he was doing for these past 3 months? What does he ask for?

[8] What three questions does the king have for him? What are Nehemiah's answers?

[9] Why do you think the king changed his foreign policy (Ezra 4:6-24), let a slave leave work, give him his endorsement, protection, and resources, and allow Nehemiah to rally the exiled slaves to rebuild a temple to worship a God that is his enemy? How does this speak to the power of prayer and Nehemiah's leadership?

[10] Brokenness, Prayer, Mission. How does Nehemiah's story reflect one of your own? When have you seen this type of thing in your own life?

[11] What can Catalyst learn as a church in this lesson?