

Homegroup Questions: Nehemiah 1 – ‘Bearing a Burden’

Icebreaker

What’s the heaviest thing you’ve ever carried, or the longest distance you’ve carried something heavy?

OR

How do you feel now that we as the church are ‘out of exile’, following the pandemic restrictions?

-PRAY-

Study

Read Jeremiah 29:10-14

- What will happen after seventy years of captivity in Babylon? (Israelites will return to Jerusalem (v10), gathered back together (v14))
- In light of this prophecy, how do you think the Israelites imagined the day they would return? (Glorious, triumphant return?)

This new series is on the book of Nehemiah, after this prophecy in Jeremiah is fulfilled once the Persian Empire take over Babylon. The book of Nehemiah is at the end of Israel’s story in the Old Testament, before the period of silence until Jesus came. Nehemiah himself is a Jew who hasn’t returned to Jerusalem but is serving King Artaxerxes I, a Persian King.

Read Nehemiah 1

- Look at verse 3. What was the actual return to Jerusalem like? (the people are in trouble, in disgrace, the wall has broken down)
- Look at verse 4. Why do you think Nehemiah reacted like this?
- Look at verses 5-9. Why do you think Nehemiah recounts the story of Israel in this way?
- Look at verse 10. Imagine Nehemiah praying this part of the prayer. What tone of voice do you think he has at this point, or what emotions do you imagine him feeling as he says this?
- Look at verse 11. In light of the burden Nehemiah feels for his people, how does he respond? (*to go to the king*)

Response

Have you ever had a burden placed on your heart for a specific task, people group, nation or anything else, either in the past, or in the present day?

Take some time to share these, and pray about some of the things people talk about. Spend time asking the Lord to give us new burdens, for Him to break our hearts for what breaks His, to move us to action for the sake of His kingdom.