

## Study Guide

### Nehemiah Ch. 1

1. Nehemiah often references the *"great and awesome God."* (1:5; 4:14; 9:32). What does that phrase mean to you? How does it affect how you live?
2. Read Deut. 8:17-19, and discuss what it means to *"forget God."* What happened to Israel when they forgot God?  
*"Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' ... if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish."*
3. Read Nehemiah 1:1-4.  
Notice that the walls of Jerusalem are broken down and offer no protection. How have our personal *"walls"* been broken down, and caused *"trouble and shame"* for us? Why is it hard for us to discuss our brokenness? How did Nehemiah react in verse 4?

### Roadmap to Renewal

Discuss Nehemiah's prayer and how it can relate to renewal in our own lives.

1. Humbly declare the greatness of God (Neh. 1:4-5)
2. Confess to God, and include yourself in the problem (Neh. 1:6-7)
3. Return to Remember God's word (Neh. 1:8-9)
4. Learn to fear God. (Neh. 1:10-11; see also Isa. 33:6; Psalm 34:11)

**Application-** spend time to pray by expanding these four concepts into your own words.

"Dear God...

1. You are great and awesome
2. God, I have sinned
3. God, help me to return to your word.
4. God, please help me to learn how to stand in awe of you."

## Message Slides

### Nehemiah Overview

#### The Greatness of our God

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**Neh. 1:5-** "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."

**Neh. 4:14** - "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the **Lord**, who is **great and awesome**, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

**Neh. 9:32-** "Now, therefore, our **God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God**, who keeps covenant and steadfast love..."

#### Deut. 8:17-19

"Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' ... if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish."

#### Image- Cutting off the branch

#### Image of Captivity

#### Image Timeline

#### Image Xerxes

#### Image Esther

#### Image Persian Empire

#### Setting the Context (v.1-3)

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachabiah.

Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, <sup>2</sup>that 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. <sup>3</sup>And 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.”

### **Big Idea: The Response to Brokenness is to stop and pray!**

#### 1. Stop! (4)

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.

### **Image Breach Wall**

>Add verse to image<

Prov. 25:28- “A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.”

#### 2. Pray (5-11)

##### a. Worship God! (5)

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,

##### b. Confess! (6-7)

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.

##### c. Remember! (8-9)

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.’

##### d. Fear God! (10-11)

<sup>10</sup>They are your servants and your people, whom **you have redeemed** by your great power and by your strong hand. <sup>11</sup>O 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.

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Psalm 34:11-14 – “Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.”

Isa. 33:6- “The fear of the Lord is his treasure.”

**Big Idea: The Response to Brokenness is to stop and pray!**

### **Extended Time of Prayer**

“Dear God...

1. You are great and awesome!
2. I have sinned!
3. Help me to return to your word.
4. Help me to learn how to live in awe of you.”