

Hope Church

Sunday Sermon 2/23/2025

To watch sermon, click here: [2025-02-23](#)

Life Group Discussion Guide: Nehemiah's Position, Passion, and Prayer

Session Goals

Main Idea:

Nehemiah's calling required him to leave his position of comfort, embrace a deep passion for God's glory, and rely on fervent prayer. Likewise, God calls us to step out in faith, develop a heart for His kingdom, and commit to prayerful dependence on Him.

Head Change:

Understand the significance of Nehemiah's role as cupbearer, his passion for God's people, and the structure of his prayer as a model for us today.

Heart Change:

Develop a dislocated heart—one that longs for the things of God and is burdened for His kingdom.

Life Change:

Step out of our comfort zones, embrace God's vision for transformation, and commit to prayer with a reverent, repentant, and expectant heart.

Opening Discussion

- Have you ever had to leave a place of comfort to do something difficult but important?
- What is something in the world or in your community that breaks your heart?
- How do you typically respond when you hear about brokenness or injustice—do you take action, pray, or feel overwhelmed?

Introduction:

Last week, we studied Nehemiah's preparation and how God had shaped him for His purposes. Today, we will explore his position, passion, and prayer—and how they all played a role in God's plan.

Scripture Reading

Read Nehemiah 1:1–11

Discussion Questions

1. Nehemiah's Position (Nehemiah 1:11b)

- Why do you think Nehemiah's role as the king's cupbearer was significant?
- What risks did Nehemiah face in leaving his position to pursue God's call?
- How does this apply to us? What might we need to give up or risk in order to follow God's calling?

2. Nehemiah's Passion (Nehemiah 1:4)

- How did Nehemiah react to the news about Jerusalem? Why was he so deeply moved?

- Chip Ingram describes a “dislocated heart” as one that is somewhere other than where the body is. Where do you see evidence of this in Nehemiah?
- What areas of your life might God be calling you to have a dislocated heart—whether for the lost, the hurting, or the work of His kingdom?

3. Nehemiah’s Prayer (Nehemiah 1:5–11)

- What do you notice about the structure of Nehemiah’s prayer? How does it compare to your own prayers?
- Why do you think Nehemiah begins with worship and reverence for God rather than jumping straight to his request?
- How does repentance play a role in our ability to hear from and be used by God?
- What are some promises from Scripture that we can claim in our prayers, just as Nehemiah did?
- Why do you think Nehemiah waited on God in prayer for months before taking action? What does this teach us about seeking God’s timing?

Application and Personal Commitment

- Is there a position of comfort that God is asking you to step away from in order to build His kingdom?
- What specific needs in your church or community stir a deep passion in you?
- How can you commit to deeper, more intentional prayer in the coming week?

Challenge:

This week, spend time praying through the same structure Nehemiah used:

1. **Reverence** – Worship God for who He is.
2. **Repentance** – Confess personal and communal sins.
3. **Remembrance** – Claim God’s promises.
4. **Requests** – Bring your needs before Him.

Last Word

Nehemiah’s willingness to leave his position, his passionate heart, and his deep reliance on prayer are all characteristics we should strive for as we seek to follow God’s vision. If we want to see transformation in our lives and communities, we must be willing to step out, be moved by what moves God, and pray fervently for His will to be done.

Go Deeper (Optional Study and Reflection)

Additional Reading:

- **Matthew 6:9–13** (The Lord’s Prayer)
- **Isaiah 6:8** (“Here I am, send me.”)
- **Colossians 3:1–2** (Setting our hearts on things above)

Reflection Questions:

- What is one area where you feel God stretching you to trust Him more?
- How can your prayers become more God-centered rather than just need-centered?
- Who in your life needs your prayers and support as they step out in faith?

Memory Verse:

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God." – **Colossians 3:1**

Let's commit to being a people of passion and prayer, ready to step out of our comfort zones for the glory of God!