

Let's build God's city in our city
June 12, 2011

A broken heart for broken walls
Nehemiah 1:1-11



City life: crowds of people, traffic congestion, asphalt and concrete, schools, government, culture, community . . . All of us know what it's like to live in a city. But did you know that God is in the process of building a city of his own right in the midst of our city? Although the story of the Bible starts in the garden (Gen. 1-2), it ends in a city (Rev. 21). And in between God invites us to join him in building his city right where we live. How do we do this? What does this look like? How do we deal with opposition? These are just some of the questions we are going to answer as we dig into the book of Nehemiah. I hope you are ready to let God use you to build his city in our city!

Discussion Questions: (Leaders please review each question and pick those that will be most beneficial for your group.)

1. Read Nehemiah 1. God wants to use you to build his city (a.k.a. his church) in our city today. But in order to be used by God, like Nehemiah, we must honestly face the broken down walls around us (vv.1-3). What are some of the broken down walls and gates you see in God's city (his church) today? Which broken down walls do you see in your own life. In our church?
2. In response to the news of the broken down walls, Nehemiah wept and mourned (v.4a). Like Nehemiah, in order to be used by God our hearts must break over broken down walls. When was the last time you wept and mourned over broken down walls either in your life or others? If compassion/concern is not your response, then what keeps you from having a broken heart for broken down walls? Will you pray and ask God to give you his heart for his city?
3. Next, looking at Nehemiah we learn that a broken heart over broken walls turns to God in prayer (vv.4b-10). Like Nehemiah, in order to be used by God to build his city in our city we must pray. Looking at his prayer in vv.5-10, what elements from his prayer will you incorporate into your prayer life?
4. Before Nehemiah did anything else, he prayed and fasted for 3-4 months in response to the condition of God's city. Will you participate in The Nehemiah Project and adopt a zone in this near west region and agree to meet once a week this summer (when you are in town) to pray (and fast) asking God to use you/us to build his city in our city?