

NOTES



PRAYER

Father, thank you that you GAVE your only Son that I may be set free. Thank you that he would GO to the cross to die for our sins so that we may also experience this freedom. May we rid our vices and attachments that cause us to be held back from all that you have for us today, and that we might GIVE, PRAY, and GO for you in all we have. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WARM UP (OPTIONAL)

If you could have any super power, what would it be, and how would you use that super power to serve others?

PRAYER



EVERY NATION
BRISBANE

© 2022 by EVERY NATION BRISBANE®
All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.

WORD

⁶ While this was taking place, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king. And after some time I asked leave of the king ⁷ and came to Jerusalem, and I then discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, preparing for him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. ⁸ And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the chamber. ⁹ Then I gave orders, and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back there the vessels of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.

¹⁰ I also found out that the portions of the Levites had not been given to them, so that the Levites and the singers, who did the work, had fled each to his field. ¹¹ So I confronted the officials and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together and set them in their stations. ¹² Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, wine, and oil into the storehouses. ¹³ And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouses Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and as their assistant Hanan the son of Zaccur, son of Mattaniah, for they were considered reliable, and their duty was to distribute to their brothers. ¹⁴ Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God and for his service.

[Nehemiah 13:6-14](#)

Nehemiah was exemplary as a leader in the way that he would **GIVE, PRAY,** and **GO** to fulfil God's will for his life, and to serve his nation and his people.

GIVE - in order to GIVE, we must learn to LET GO

There's a spirit of generosity about Nehemiah. He tells us what it cost him. An ox...this is a daily requirement to feed these 150 men and the entourage of diplomats that would stay in the governor's palace perhaps...an ox and six choice sheep, and fowl of some kind, and every ten days, all kinds of wine in abundance. "Yet for all this, I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people."

He's generous! This would have cost a significant amount of money, which he evidently paid out of his own purse. He tells us about previous governors who demanded forty shekels of silver as a daily ration. That it's meant to be a figure that brings a level of surprise. It's a figure that tells us something of the exorbitant demand that was being levied upon the people just to administer this provision. And Nehemiah pays for it himself. There's a spirit of generosity about him.

That's a biblical principle. Paul in many places in the New Testament (see [1 Timothy 6:18](#)) pleads for Christians to be generous and to be ready to share. Luke describes Cornelius in [Acts 10](#) as "giving alms generously." Again, in [II Corinthians 9](#), Paul thanks the Corinthians because of their generosity. "Each one must give as he has means, as he has made up his mind; not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Here's an example of a man who has certain rights, but he denies himself those rights, and out of his own pocket, for the sake of the kingdom of God, for the sake of the Old Testament church, he gives – and he gives generously. There's a measure of enthusiasm here about what he has done; so much so that he's actually recorded it for us. He wants us to see this.

PRAY - in order to PRAY, we must learn to TRUST GOD

Nehemiah was a prayer warrior. He prayed, repented, wept, fasted, and sought God's help, strength, purpose, and power for four months. From the time he received the report about the walls being in ruin until the completion of the walls, he relied on God every step of the way.

God reveals through Nehemiah's persistence in prayer that God is eager to partner with us in our purpose and plans that align with his will. God is eager to bless us through the power of prayer. So, while Nehemiah persistently prayed, God was working with him and through him. As Christ-followers, we must approach the throne with the mindset that we are reporting for duty when we pray, because God wants to use our circumstances, passion, and the things that burden our heart for his purpose. We need to be ready for God's call and act.

GO - in order to GO, we must LEAVE THINGS, PLACES, and PEOPLE BEHIND

Nehemiah built the walls in 55 days while opposing political opposition and inner turmoil. Later he negotiated peace among the Jews over Persian taxes and became governor for a short time. The book of Nehemiah shows us the kind of significant impact one individual can have on a nation. It also shows us how we are to posture ourselves in prayer, praise, and persistence when we lean into God's purpose for our lives. Even though this narrative happened thousands of years ago, it still applies today. Nehemiah served in secular offices and used his position to rebuild a city. He used his leadership skills and his faith in God to restore Jewish order, provide stability for the people, and restore their focus on their mighty God.

It doesn't matter if you are a factory worker, a mom, a CEO, or an entrepreneur—God uses all kinds of people in all kinds of places to change the culture, revive hearts, and build his Kingdom. God has placed you where you are for a purpose. God wants us to remember: "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father" ([Colossians 3:17](#)). Are you ready to see the power of God work in and through you? Start praying!

Contains excerpts from [Heather Riggleman's "4 Lessons We Can Learn from Nehemiah's Prayer"](#) and [Ligon Duncan's "Unity Through Generosity"](#).

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = not at all; 10 = complete ease), how would you rate your ability to give away what is precious to you? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. In order to do what God wanted Nehemiah to do, he had to empty Jerusalem of all the remnants of the worship of other gods. What are you willing to leave behind in order to GO where God has called you to go?
3. Nehemiah saw the importance of taking care of the house of the LORD in verses 12-14 of today's reading. How are you willing to take care of the house of the Lord?
4. Nehemiah surrounded himself with people of prayer, people on a mission to build, and people who were generous with their resources and time. Do you consider yourself to be a giver, a person of prayer, or a goer? Which of these three would you like to see God change in you?

If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, would you choose today to trust him? Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am yours, and you are mine. In Jesus' name, Amen.