



## Leader Guide

# Overcome

*October 2, 2022*

**Main Passage: Nehemiah 1:1–2:9**

## Theological Theme

As Christians we should be heartbroken over the same things as God. If the church wants to make a difference for the kingdom of God, we must care enough about other people, countries, and cultures that we are moved to prayer and action like Nehemiah was.

## Introduction

- ❓ What movie or book comes to your mind when you think about themes inspired by the idea of home?
- ❓ What emotions does the concept of home stir up in you?

## 1. Brokenhearted (Nehemiah 1:1-4)

The book of Nehemiah begins by describing what he heard from a brother who had recently traveled back to Jerusalem. The men who had gone to Judah brought back details about the city and its condition that were concerning. The Jews had an innate sense of devotion to and love for the city of Jerusalem that was passed from generation to generation.

- ❓ What breaks your heart and moves you toward compassion and action? Are these the same things that break the heart of God? How can you know?
- ❓ When was the last time you were so upset that your first response was to weep, pray, or fast?
- ❓ Application: How do you typically respond to heartbreak?

## 2. Moved to Prayer (Nehemiah 1:5-11)

When Nehemiah experienced deep mourning over the situation in Jerusalem, he did the best thing he could. He went straight to God in prayer. He did not waste time with other solutions that would not be enough, he took his concerns and stress to the Lord and poured his heart out before Him.

- ❓ What are some places people turn to numb their stress or concerns instead of turning to God? What are some things you might turn to outside of God?
- ❓ What sticks out to you from Nehemiah's prayer? How might you learn to turn to God from Nehemiah's example?
- ❓ Application: What is a common subject of prayer for you recently? How might you pray toward this with a heart ready for action?

### 3. Moved to Action (Nehemiah 2:1-9)

Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the king, a position of honor and trust. He was often in the presence of the king and had to be careful about each detail of his appearance, even his countenance. As Nehemiah prayed and fasted for four months, it affected him physically and the king noticed.

- ❓ What responsibility did Nehemiah have when given the opportunity to make his request? When was a time prayer led you to act?
- ❓ When was the last time you saw an answer to prayer that could only be attributed to God?
- ❓ Application: What does this text teach you about being bold in your faith? How is God calling you to respond to Him today?

### Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

\*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

### Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

*Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"*

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

### Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).