



**Nehemiah 1:5-2:8 Prayers & Plans | September 15<sup>th</sup> - September 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Warm-up:** Describe the difference between your private prayers and public prayers in group settings. Are they drastically different? If so, why?

- Read **Nehemiah 1:5-10** aloud together. Nehemiah offers this prayer to God after “days” of mourning, fasting, and praying. In other words, this was no hasty prayer, but one that was intentional and contemplated.
  - Examine each verse. What is the first thing Nehemiah sets out to do in this prayer? What can we learn from this?
  - Nehemiah has the confidence to petition God after confessing sin and guilt. Why do we so often fail to petition God after confessing sin? Do we think we are not worthy? Do we suppose He won’t grant our requests? Discuss.
  
- Read **Nehemiah 2:1-8** together. In this passage Nehemiah requests from the king to return to Jerusalem to rebuild its walls and repair damage brought on by the king’s previous conquests.
  - Given that Jerusalem was previously the enemy of the King, would Nehemiah have any reason to suspect that his request be granted?
  - Why might he still petition the king in spite of this?
  - Notice that after Nehemiah’s initial request is approved, he continues on to make additional requests. What can we learn from Nehemiah about the importance of initiative and planning in accomplishing God-given visions for our lives?
  - Are you ever guilty of being too passive? How about guilty of not offering your plans to God at all? Based on Nehemiah’s example, what does proper planning look like?
  
- There are many things that can cause us to abandon or neglect accomplishing our visions. We may lack finances, be busy with kids, be stuck in a dead-end job etc...
  - Is there anything you are able to identify in your life that would inhibit your ability to accomplish a God-given vision for your life? How will you respond?
  - Right now are you allowing God to define the limits of his plan for your life or are you allowing circumstances to define those limits?

**Wrap-up:** Praying though God’s Word is a great way to approach God. Whether you are in the process of discovering, initiating or planning for your vision, identify a passage of Scripture which communicates the prayer of your heart and close by offering it in prayer to the Lord.