

Nehemiah 2 – Planning and Patience with a Purpose
Study/Discussion Guide

1) We know from the text that Nehemiah had to wait at least 4 months before he was able to talk with the King about his burden for Jerusalem. Why would this be hard for him? What would be the easy thing to do?

2) Read the following scriptures. Why is it important to not give up on when things get tough for when we are forced to wait? What can sustain us so we don't give into the temptation to quit?

Colossians 1:9-14

Galatians 6:9

Revelation 2:10

Proverbs 3:5-6

John 15:17 (be careful with this one and remember context!)

2 Peter 1:3-14

3) Nehemiah gave the king a specific date for his return. This shows that Nehemiah had not only asked God for success but had also come up with a plan and knew what he was requesting. How did this benefit him?

4) Nehemiah was given an armed escort without requesting it. Read Eph 3:20 and Romans 8:32. What do these verses tell us about the nature of God when it comes to providing? How is this a foreshadowing of what God was going to do through Jesus?

5) Why did Nehemiah wait to tell the Israelites about his plan? What does this show about the importance of patience? What did he need to do first?

6) How can we apply the patience shown by Nehemiah to our roles as husbands, dads, employees, bosses... etc... How might this help us to reach other people for Jesus?

7) Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem represented opposition to Nehemiah's plans. What things in our lives do we see as opposition?

8) How does Nehemiah handle this initially? What can we learn from that?

9) Read Philippians 2:2-11. What parallels do we see between Jesus and Nehemiah?