**Let’s Rebuild 1 – Rebuilding starts in prayer. Nehemiah 1**

**Leader Notes**

**HOOK**

**1. Looking back on 2019, what’s something you’re really grateful for that happened?**

**2. What’s something you’re really passionate about?**

**3. When’s the last time you cried? What were you crying about?**

**BOOK**

**4. Read 2 Chronicles 36:15-19 When was Jerusalem destroyed? (586 B.C.) Read Deut. 4:25-28. Why did God allow the destruction of Jerusalem, its walls and Temple?** The devastation of Jerusalem was a reflection of the faithfulness of a covenantal God.

**5. What do you think motivated Nehemiah to care about the conditions of Jerusalem?** (He was a Jew, more concerned about his nation than his own comfort. Also, as a God-fearing man, Nehemiah was concerned about God’s dwelling place.)

**6. Read Neh.1:1-3** **What did Nehemiah learn about Jerusalem and the Jews?** (They remnant struggled to survive and were disgraced.)

**7. What does Nehemiah say about God’s character? (1:5)**

1) God is great. 2) God is powerful. 3) God keeps his covenant promises. (Read Deut. 7:9)

**8. Read Neh. 1:5-10. What happened to Nehemiah as he was praying?** (Nehemiah became more aware of his sin. He confessed it. His burden for Jerusalem became greater and his vision of what needed to be done became clearer. As we pray, God tells us what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. Prayer is aligning our heart with God’s heart.)

**9. Read Deut. 4:29-31. What were the promises of God Nehemiah recalled in prayer?**

 **10. Read Neh. 1:11. What is Nehemiah willing to do to answer his prayer?** (To leave the comfort of the king’s palace to go to Jerusalem and lead a rebuilding project. Nehemiah was a leader of prayer and action.

 **LOOK**

**11. What was the function of a city’s walls in Nehemiah’s time (444 BC)?** (Without walls, the city was constantly vulnerable to the attacks of invaders. Without walls, there’s fear, violence and anarchy.) **What’s the equivalent of city walls in our church?**

 **TOOK**

**12. Is confession of sin easy or difficult for you? Do you tend to take the blame and share the credit, or take the credit and share the blame?**

**13. How are you doing: Physically, emotionally, spiritually, and relationally? Where would a gauge point in each of those areas in your life?**

**14. Have a prayer time as an individual or small group.**

**Isaiah 55:6-7: “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.**

**Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.”**

**Prayer – How has Calgary, Canada, family members or you personally drifted away from God? What sins are prevalent in our society that you can identify with and confess? (i.e. Pride, indifference, greed, idolatry, addictions, injustice, immorality, unbelief, etc.)**

**Isaiah 62:6-7: “You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.”**

**Isaiah 64:4-5, 7-9 : “No eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways.”**

**Prayer – Ask God what He is doing in 2020 that He wants you to join Him in. What is God calling you to do this year? Ask God for His heart, and a willingness to obey.**