

Nehemiah 1;2;4; 5;6:1-14

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

Readings this week:

- S Nehemiah 1
- M Nehemiah 2
- T Nehemiah 4
- W Nehemiah 5
- Th Nehemiah 6
- F Luke 6: 27-49
- S 1 Peter 2

Read Nehemiah 1:1-11. What was the first problem Nehemiah faced? Discuss it with your group. How did he deal with it?

Now look at the passages which go with each of the 'bricks' and discuss lessons you can learn from the way Nehemiah handled the problems. Make notes of your ideas in the space provided.

Bad News
Nehemiah 1: 1-3

Neh 1: 4-11

Being afraid of what might happen
Neh 2: 1-2

Neh 2: 3-5

Too much rubbish
Neh 2: 14, 4: 10

Neh 2: 18, 4: 21

Mocking and ridicule
Neh 2: 19, 4: 1-3

Neh 2: 20, 4: 4-6

Poverty and injustice
Neh 5: 1-5

Neh 5: 6-14

Friends giving up
Neh 4: 10

Neh 4: 14

Threats of violence
Neh 4: 7-8, 11

Neh 4: 9, 13, 14-23

Invitation to do wrong
Neh 6: 1-2, 10

Neh 6: 3-4, 11-13

Being lied about
Neh 6: 5-7

Neh 6: 8-9

How many of the problems Nehemiah faced are ones which you have faced? Talk about them with your group and discuss the ways you overcame your problems.

Now read Matthew 6:19-34. What does Jesus say about the way to face problems?

Build your life
around *God's* word
and his purpose.

Work together to make an action plan for what to do the next time you are faced with one of the problems. Write it here.

Digging Deeper

In Nehemiah 4:2 we can see that there was a troop from Samaria there. Some versions of the Bible call them Samaritans.

Read the following passages and build up a picture of where they came from and how they were regarded.

1 Kings 16:23-24,28-29

2 Kings 17:5-6,24-33,41

Ezra 4:1-3

Were things any different in New Testament times and what was Jesus attitude to them?

Luke 9:51-56,

John 4:7-10,19-20,39-40

Luke 10:25-37

Pray
that like
Nehemiah
you will take
problems to
God.