



WEEK 1: PREPARATION

VIDEO:

This video will introduce the concept of preparation, setting the stage for the story from Nehemiah.

STORY:

Read the story of Nehemiah 1:1-11. Here is some background information to read before studying the text:

- The walls of Jerusalem had been torn down in 586 B.C. when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon destroyed the city and conquered Israel.
- Zerubbabel rebuilt the Temple in 538 B.C. Ezra finished the work on the Temple and began worshipping there in 458. Yet, no one had bothered to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The book of Nehemiah opens in 446 B.C., 140 years after the walls had been torn down.
- Nehemiah served as the cupbearer to the king of Persia (Artaxerxes). When Nehemiah heard that the wall had not been rebuilt, he wept over Jerusalem and her people. The walls of a city were a symbol of its power and protection. Jerusalem had no defense without its walls.
- Nehemiah knew something had to be done. Make special note of the two things Nehemiah did to prepare for his mission:
 - Confessed Sins (1:4-7)
 - Prayed for God's Help (1:8-11)

QUESTIONS:

1. How is our mission similar to Nehemiah's? How is it different?
2. Reread Nehemiah 1:4. Examine Nehemiah's heart before God. What motivated his mission? How does this apply to us?
3. What are some specific things we need to do in order to prepare for our mission?

Nehemiah prepared for his mission by praying. Prayer is one of the most important preparatory acts we can do. Spend some time as a group praying for our mission. You might also use this time to share any prayer requests and praises you might have as a group.



Notes

