

# Community Group Study Guide

## The God To Whom We Pray Nehemiah 1

### Main Idea

Restoration of the people of God requires a recapturing of the God for whom they serve

### Overview

- I. People of God are deeply invested in displaying the character of God
  - A. Nehemiah is broken because he is a man of God, who is reminded of the desolation of the City of God, which then leads him to brokenness because that city does not display the character of God
    - 1. Nehemiah is deeply invested in seeing the character of God displayed
    - 2. So much so he weeps and he mourns that the display of God's name in His chosen land continues to be defamed
- II. People of God know who they pray to, why they pray, and what they ask for
  - A. Character of the God to whom Nehemiah prays
    - 1. Great God; Awesome God; Covenant Keeping God; God of steadfast love; Redeeming God; Powerful God; Strong God; Merciful God (vs. 5, 10, 11)
  - B. Confession of sin, personal and corporate
    - 1. Nehemiah sees the sin of Israel; Nehemiah also takes responsibility in confessing his own sin
    - 3. These sins are a compromise of the covenant God made (Deut. 30.1-5)
    - 4. This is a significant reason why Nehemiah prays
    - 5. His consideration of a Holy God moves him to confession of sin
  - C. Nehemiah then recalls the Promises of God
    - 1. Deuteronomy 30.1-5
    - 2. Covenant is not business transaction, but begins a relationship
    - 3. Having shown confession and faithfulness, Nehemiah asks God to reestablish Covenant
    - 4. All of the above is done by prayer
    - 5. These are the things we ask for, obedience and proper display of a Holy God

### Questions

- 1. Why is it Nehemiah begins his prayer like this in light of the situation at hand? Do we pray like this? Compare how you begin your prayers to this prayer.
- 2. Why is the confession of sin so prominent in this passage and in this prayer? What role does sin play in the covenant? What role should it play in your own prayer life? Why?
- 3. Exactly what does Nehemiah want to accomplish in praying back the promises of God? Are you able to call upon the promises of God? Why or why not is this significant?
- 4. Nehemiah considered the sins of Israel (God's people) and his own sin as the problem at hand. When surveying the landscape of Christianity in America, what sins might need to be confessed for her? What sins in your own life keep the church from reflecting the glory of God?