



# LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

10 FEBRUARY  
COMMISSION SUNDAY

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements.

## MAIN TEXT: Nehemiah 1

In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa. 2 Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem.

3 They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

4 When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. 5 Then I said,

"O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unending love with those who love him and obey his commands, 6 listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned! 7 We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.

8 "Please remember what you told your servant Moses: 'If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. 9 But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored.'

10 "The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants. 11 O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me."

In those days I was the king's cup-bearer.

## COMING UP

- 17 Feb – Academy starts
- 18 Feb – Alpha starts
- 27 Feb – Monthly Prayer Meeting
- 4, 11, Mar – CAP Money
- 22 Mar – 'Unforgivable' Film Premiere

\***B.L.E.S.S. means:** Begin with Prayer, Listen with care Eat together, Serve with love, Share Jesus Stories. For more info see [westminsterchapel.org.uk/bless](http://westminsterchapel.org.uk/bless).

## GETTING STARTED

We want to develop and strengthen a healthy culture of encouragement at Chapel, so each week we'll start our LG's by sharing something we want to thank God for: an encouraging thing He's doing in our lives, or in the lives of others. What ways have you been able to B.L.E.S.S.\* those around you in recent weeks?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. When Nehemiah sees injustice and wrong being done to God's people, what is his first reaction (v. 4)? God then gives him a vision: a dream of what could happen in the future. What was Nehemiah's God-inspired dream?
2. What kind of things do you tend to daydream about? What are your God-inspired daydreams for yourself? For Chapel?
3. Guy spoke of God's promise and 'dream' in creation: what was it? How was this dream worked out through Abraham's story? How was it ultimately fulfilled in Jesus?
4. How can God's dream – his restoration plan for the human race be fulfilled through us – as individuals and as Westminster Chapel – today?
5. Why is it so important to be part of a church and aligned with a bigger, wider vision (e.g. through Commission and the Apostolic?) *Hint:* think 'cups'. How much more can we achieve when we work together?

## TAKE TIME TO DREAM

Using Nehemiah's prayer as a basis, take time to daydream what it would look like to see the Gospel powerfully taking root in people's hearts and lives. What would need to change in our society? What would the church look like?

Looking at chapter 3 of Nehemiah, we see everyone played their part in building the wall, and we see in chapter 7 that the wall was built! What part are *you* playing in building God's Kingdom? What skills can you – and only you – bring to building the wall: in your workplace, neighbourhood; in Westminster Chapel? What has God called and gifted *you* to do? Are you doing it?

Take some time in small groups to reflect and then pray big prayers. Talk to your Life Group Leader about how God might be calling you to play your part.