

## SERVANTS GUIDE

# Nehemiah Introduction & Lesson 1

Servants **MUST** prep the lesson & complete the below checklist  
& Sincerely ask God to lead the lesson 😊

### Servants understanding

- Pray
- Read the lesson Summary & Goal of the lesson
- Read full chapter(s)
- Read the interpretation to have good understanding first

### Kids Experience

- Read the kids' reading flow.
- Prepare the hard words, pauses to probe GEMS (SPACE PETS)
- Time yourself to practice time keeping.
- Go through the video and have the link ready.

**S** - Sin to confess  
**P** - Promise to claim  
**A** - Attitude to change  
**C** - Command to keep  
**E** - Example to follow  
**P** - Prayer to pray  
**E** - Error to avoid  
**T** - Truth to believe  
**S** - Something to thank for  
**Linked GEM**  
**Hymn GEM**

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## 1. SERVANT'S UNDERSTANDING

### Brief

#### Readings:

- The actual reading will cover several verses in Nehemiah 1:1-4 and 2: 1-5,11, 15-17,19,20

#### Key Points/Reflections:

- Before you take a big step, or a big decision, consult God: pray and fast

### Full reading and interpretations

Servant to read [Nehemiah with simplified English \(NKJV\)](#) and [Nehemiah 2 with simplified English \(NKJV\)](#)

#### Chapter interpretations:

[Catena – Nehemiah 1](#) and [Catena – Nehemiah 2](#)

Fr Tadros Yacoub

[Fr. Tadros Yacoub - Book of Nehemiah in English](#)

[Fr. Tadros Yacoub – Nehemiah 1 in Arabic](#) and  
[Fr. Tadros Yacoub – Nehemiah 2 in Arabic](#)

Reference for meanings and simpler equivalent words:

[Nehemiah 1 with simplified English \(NIRV\)](#)  
[Nehemiah 2 with simplified English \(NIRV\)](#)



**CATENA BIBLE**  
READ WITH TIMELESS WISDOM

Settings

#### Select Church Tradition

##### All Commentaries

Includes all of the below

##### Western Theology

All fathers honored in Western Church after AD 1054 (e.g. Thomas Aquinas, Cornelius a Lapide, George Leo Haydock)

##### Byzantine Theology

All fathers venerated in Byzantine Church after AD 1054 (e.g. Gregory Palamas, Theophylact of Ochrid)

##### Early Fathers

All fathers venerated in all churches in communion with the Church of Alexandria. (e.g. Athanasius of Alexandria, John Chrysostom, Augustine of Hippo)

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## 2. KIDS / CLASS EXPERIENCE Prep.

Total 45 Minutes Class Experience – Don't exceed the time!

**TOTAL 5 MINS**

**PRAY / INTRODUCTION**

### Start in Prayer

- > We stand and pray.
- > Pray in relevance to reading the bible: Ask God to talk to us through the bible and help us focus and find lessons learned.

-Where is the book of Nehemiah in the Bible:

OLD TESTAMENT - 39 Books			NEW TESTAMENT - 27 Books	
<b>LAW - 5</b>	<b>POETRY - 5</b>	<b>MAJOR PROPHETS - 5</b>	<b>GOSPELS-4</b>	<b>PAUL'S LETTERS TO FRIENDS - 4</b>
GENESIS	JOB	ISAIAH	MATTHEW	1 TIMOTHY
EXODUS	PSALMS	JEREMIAH	MARK	2 TIMOTHY
LEVITICUS	PROVERBS	LAMENTATIONS	LUKE	TITUS
NUMBERS	ECCLESIASTES	EZEKIEL	JOHN	PHILEMON
DEUTERONOMY	SONG OF SOLOMON	DANIEL		
			<b>HISTORY - 1</b>	
<b>HISTORY - 12</b>		<b>MINOR PROPHETS - 12</b>	ACTS	
JOSHUA		HOSEA		<b>PAUL'S LETTERS TO CHURCHES - 9</b>
JUDGES		JOEL		<b>GENERAL LETTERS - 9</b>
RUTH		AMOS	ROMANS	HEBREWS
1 SAMUEL		OBADIAH	1 CORINTHIANS	JAMES
2 SAMUEL		JONAH	2 CORINTHIANS	1 PETER
1 KINGS		MICAH	GALATIANS	2 PETER
2 KINGS		NAHUM	EPHESIANS	1 JOHN
1 CHRONICLES		HABAKKUK	PHILIPPIANS	2 JOHN
2 CHRONICLES		ZEPHANIAH	COLOSSIANS	3 JOHN
EZRA		HAGGAI	1 THESSALONIANS	JUDE
NEHEMIAH		ZECHARIAH	2 THESSALONIANS	REVELATION
ESTHER		MALACHI		

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-Nehemiah is in the Era of Return of the Israelites in the Chronological order of the Bible.

**ERA 1: CREATION**

**ERA 2: PATRIARCH**

**ERA 3: EXODUS**

**ERA 4: CONQUEST**

**ERA 5: JUDGES**

**ERA 6: KINGDOM**

**ERA 7: EXILE**

**ERA 8: RETURN**

**ERA 9: SILENCE**

**ERA 10: CHRIST**

**ERA 11: CHURCH**

**ERA 12: REVELATION**

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### Introduction

Persians defeated the Babylonians and king of Persia allowed the Jews to return back to Judah after years of captivity.

Israelites returned to Judah on three stages (Southern Kingdom)

1<sup>st</sup> group led by Zerubbabel – They tried to rebuild the Temple but were not able.

2<sup>nd</sup> group led by Ezra after 80 years - they tried to rebuild the temple but again they stopped according to king's command.

3<sup>rd</sup> group led by Nehemiah after 13 years → (our story)

At this time the walls were still broken so a city without walls was defenceless and has no power

**This week's VIDEO TOTAL 5 MINS**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5Y0P6Mpbqo&t=657s>

– From minutes 0:00 to 3:00

*Time check: 30 mins left*

**TOTAL 20 MINS**

### BIBLE READING & REFLECTION

#### Nehemiah 1

1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah.

It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, 2 that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them

#### Hard words:

Captivity --> being held or trapped

Distress --> Sadness 🙄

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concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, “The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.”  
4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

**GEM: Example to follow.** Like Nehemiah,

- We check on our family.
- When we have a problem, we start fasting and praying to God.
- Not to think this world is our home; our home is in heaven. Had a mind to seek the kingdom of God.

Reproach--> Blame 🙄

Province --> Region or area

Mourned --> feel and show sadness 😞

**NOTE TO SERVANTS – ASK THE KIDS IF ANYONE CAN SUMMERIZE**

**RECAP:**

When Nehemiah, who was a high-ranking official, heard a report that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and its people were in great trouble, he was heartbroken. In response, he sat down, wept, and mourned for many days, spending his time fasting and praying to God.

**Intriguing Questions:**

*Can you think of examples of times where things were challenging, discouraging and hard?! What did you do? What can we learn from what Nehemiah did ... what can you do from now on?*

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### Nehemiah 2: 1-5,11, 15-17,19,20

1 And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. 2 Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart."

So I became dreadfully afraid, 3 and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?"

4 Then the king said to me, "What do you request?"

So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."

#### GEMs

- **Example to follow**  
After fasting and prayer, Nehemiah took action to fix the problem.  
He speaks respectfully to others.
- **Prayer to pray**  
Quick prayer before speaking
- **Truth to believe**  
God is with us and gives us success.

Dreadfully--> terribly. 😞

**RECAP:** After the king noticed Nehemiah's sadness, Nehemiah explained that he was upset because the city of Jerusalem was in ruins. When the king asked what he needed, Nehemiah bravely requested permission to go and rebuild his ancestral city.

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11 So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days.

15 So I went up in the night by the valley and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate and so returned. 16 And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work.

17 Then I said to them, “You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.”

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, “What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?”

20 So I answered them, and said to them, “The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore, we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem.”

### **GEMs: Example to follow**

Nehemiah was patient (believed that God is with him) despite how bad the city looked and the discouragement he heard from Sanballat

and Tobiah

### **RECAP:**

After arriving in Jerusalem, Nehemiah secretly inspected the city's ruined walls at night. He then revealed his plan to the people, urging them to rebuild so their city would no longer be a disgrace.

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When some enemies mocked their plan, Nehemiah bravely told them that God would help them succeed, and they had no part in Jerusalem.

*Time check: 10 mins left*

### WRAP UP & VERSE OF THE DAY

#### TOTAL 5 MINS

NOW, facilitate that "The Kids" find out lessons learned.  
Remind them with the principle "we ALWAYS find something to learn from the Bible when we read it."

Tips for Lessons learned facilitation:

Use SPACE PETS Key to help the kids find lessons learned (tool to find the Gems!)

- Sin to confess?
- Promise to claim?
- Attitude to change?
- Command to keep?
- Example to follow?
- Prayer to pray?
- Error to avoid?
- Truth to believe?
- Something to thank God for?

#### What did you learn from today's reading?

- Pray when in doubt or fearful.
- Confess your sins in your prayers and to Abouna, and God will bless you, forgive you, and help you get better and fix them.
- Speak respectfully to others.
- Take action to fix your problems.

#### What can you do to apply what you read in your personal life?

Verse to Memorize:

The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore, we His servants will arise and build" (Nehemiah 2:20)

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*TIME CHECK: 5 mins left*

**TOTAL 5 MINS**

### **Prayer & Dismissal**

We can motivate and guide them to say a simple single sentence.

*TIME CHECK: 0 mins left*

*Please dismiss kids on time*