

Knowing How to Pray

Nehemiah 1

Opening the Discussion

1. Share something for which you are thankful for from this past week (family, faith, circumstances, events, problems, blessings, etc.)
2. As you reflect on the weekend message, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful or insightful?
3. What's one thing from the message you hope we talk about as a group?

Growing Deeper

1. Read verses 3 & 4. Pastor Brian said, "It's so easy for us to stay uninvolved and unaware" but Nehemiah resisted this. What did he do to be involved? Why do people often insulate themselves from problems and remain uninvolved and unaware? Why is this approach not wise for Christians to take?
2. Read verses 5 & 6. What stands out to you about how Nehemiah thought about who God is and how He responds to those who make requests of Him?
3. "Friends, when we go to God in prayer, things get put into their proper perspective" was a conclusion made in the message. How can praying to God change your perspective on the issues and problems of life?
4. Read verse 7. In describing this verse, Pastor Brian said "Nehemiah recognized sin is not merely a stubborn refusal to obey certain rules, but is also a defiant act of aggressive personal rebellion against a holy God." How easy is it to be honest about the severity of our sin and what gets in the way of total honesty toward God and self?

5. Nehemiah modeled confession of sin in this passage and went on to emphasize God's promises. Why is it important to move on after we confess sin? What causes us to sometimes get stuck in our guilt?
6. What does verse 10 tell us about God?
7. Read verse 11. What petitions and commitments are revealed in Nehemiah's words? What does this verse say about the heart of Nehemiah toward the things of God?
8. Read 1 John 5:14. What does this verse teach us about God, prayer, and our relationship with Him?

Words to Actions

1. Pastor Brian mentioned there are four types of prayer modeled by Nehemiah: adoration, thanksgiving, confession, and petition.
2. Nehemiah was characterized by a "lifestyle of prayer." What would need to be done in order to grow deeper toward this type of prayer life?
3. Martin Luther said, "Pray as if everything depends on God, then work as if everything depends on you." What does this mean and give examples of what it would look like during our "Grow Time initiative" of expanding our faith, growing as a spiritual family, and our commitment to invest in the future of Edgewood?