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## **SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE**

### **Nehemiah 1:4–11**

4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. 5 Then I said:

“Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you. 7 We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

8 “Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, 9 but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’

10 “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. 11 Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.”

I was cupbearer to the king.

### **3 BELIEFS FOR A REVIVED PRAYER LIFE:**

1. Believe that God keeps His promises.
2. Believe that God hears your prayers.
3. Believe that God is powerful and merciful.

### **TWO QUESTIONS:**

1. How would my prayer life change if I really believed that all of these were true?
2. What area of my prayer life do I view more as duty than delight? And how do I need to allow the Lord to minister to me in that?

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## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Please read the passage of Scripture together as a group. (Nehemiah 1:4-11)**

**How does Nehemiah model prayer for the people?**

**What is he calling the people to remember in their prayers?**

**What is he asking God to remember?**

**Nehemiah confesses on behalf of himself, but also on behalf of the whole Israelite nation. How do you handle repentance for yourself, and on behalf of others?**

**In Scripture, it tells us to confess our sins to each other. Is there something you need to confess to our group?**

**After this sermon, do you feel invited into more fervent prayer in your life?**

**Spend some time praying as a group. How can we pray for you this week?**