



One of the prayers that has come from our study of Psalm 51 echoes the plea of David to “rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.” This was not a literal request from King David, but a plea for the Lord to build up and restore his people. Our prayer as The Trails Church is that we would edify and build one another up through the power of the Gospel. In Nehemiah 1:1-3, we look at the heart of a man that would not only literally build the walls of Jerusalem, but would also restore the people of God into fellowship with one another and the Lord.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Look back at Psalm 51:18. How does this verse relate to the story of Nehemiah?
2. As a group, briefly review the history of Israel. How did Israel become divided and exiled? Why are they having to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem? What is the condition of the people of Israel at the time of Nehemiah 1?
3. Gabe taught that one response against selfish individualism is looking outside of ourselves to the needs of others. How does Nehemiah model this kind of compassion in chapter 1? When was the last time that something broke your heart, even if it didn’t have a direct impact on your life?
4. How should Nehemiah’s compassion for the people of God impact how we feel about the church, both locally and globally? What about for those who are unbelievers, lost in the world? (Have someone in your group read from Matthew 9:36 and 14:14). How does Jesus model this compassion for those who are lost and suffering?
5. How does the text in Nehemiah 1 illustrate how to grow in having a compassionate heart? Specifically, consider the importance of prayer, showing awe and wonder to the Lord and repentance.

**PRAY:** Pray that the Lord would soften our hearts to become more attentive to the needs of God’s people and the plight of the lost. That he would break our hearts for the things that break his. Ask that God would give us discernment and wisdom to move from compassion to action, all for his glory.