

Every Sunday evening at [Bible Explorer](#) we will explore the question

'What does this book from the Bible mean for us today?'

- Nehemiah** is the Jewish cup bearer to king of Persia in the 6th Century BC. He is a powerful man of influence.

Despite Haggai and Zechariah's encouragement and the rebuilding of the Temple in 516BC eighty years on Nehemiah hears that Jerusalem is still in ruins, few people choose to live there, friction and disillusionment is rife.

Nehemiah prays for guidance - with the King's permission he travels to Jerusalem oversee its reconstruction.

During the rebuilding, Nehemiah is plagued by several enemies who attack the city, spread political dissent, and attempt to lure him away from his work, but he perseveres in the task until the city is rebuilt, after which he quickly reeducates the people on Jewish law.
- 'What does Nehemiah say to us today?'**

Prayer Nehemiah's first reaction to Jerusalem's plight is to pray 1:1-10! He prayed with emotion, wholeheartedly, and inclusively – he included himself! Throughout rebuilding, Nehemiah he faced a number of difficult challenges, and he stops to pray earnestly to God before each.

Seek God First - Act Second. Fast and pray until clarity comes to you about your plan of action. Let clarity come from your humility and openness of heart, not from within your own opinions and reasoning. (1:4)

Vision Despite the desperate reality of the situation Nehemiah had vision 2:11-18. Nehemiah was also a wise practical leader 4:10 - 23 -being Visionary doesn't mean being a dreamer it involves practical wisdom

"Where there is no vision, the people perish " -where there is the living word, life, and hope the people flourish Proverbs 29:18.

Opposition Nehemiah's enemies make several attempts to distract him from his work, believing that the work itself could not continue while he was away 2:19, 4:1-3. At one point, Nehemiah receives a letter threatening political consequences unless he agreed to meet face to face with his enemies. Nehemiah responds with the message "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down" 6:3

Let opposition strengthen your resolve and your faith. Let it make you determined to finish the work (4:6). Let opposition make you a prayer warrior (4:7-9) be prepared for attacks and arm yourself with the Armour of God (4:13; Eph 6:11-18) Remember it's not about you only, but about God's kingdom (4:14)