

**send me** [Nehemiah 1.11-2.10]

**in the month of Nisan . . .**

why does your face look so sad?

then I prayed

the gracious hand of my God

**some observations**

God's heart for the oppressed, broken and hurting

Exodus 3.7-10

Isaiah 58

saying yes to God

Luke 9.23-25

wherever, whenever, whatever, however

Matthew 25.35-36

Luke 9.57-62

**[big questions]**

Do I share God's heart for the oppressed, broken and hurting??

Have I truly said yes to God?

In my life, saying yes to God means saying no to . . .

**Memorize this-**

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to all of them, "If anyone wants to follow me, he must say no to himself. He must pick up his cross every day and follow me. <sup>24</sup> If he wants to save his life, he will lose it. But if he loses his life

for me, he will save it.

-Luke 9.23-24 (NirV)

**[repair and restore.02]**

**[repair and restore.02]**

**send me** : Nehemiah 1.11-2.10  
[going deeper]

What thought, idea or observation from this teaching did you find to be the most useful, encouraging, eye-opening or even troubling? Explain.

Describe a time when you really wanted something but couldn't get it or do it right away. How long did you wait? What was that like?

Have you ever prayed for something for so long that when God answered your prayer, you were actually a bit surprised? Explain.

#### **Read Nehemiah 1.11-2.10**

Why do you think Nehemiah mentions that he was the cupbearer to the king? As far as bringing a solution to the problem of the broken walls, what advantages did that afford him? What disadvantages did this present for him?

Why do you think Nehemiah was afraid when the king saw that he was sad? What does the king's response say about the relationship that Nehemiah had developed with him? What do you learn about Nehemiah from his response to the king's questions?

The walls are broken down, Nehemiah is 900 miles away, he has a cushy job, he's a cupbearer-not a contractor or stonemason, etc.—this presents a bit of a problem for Nehemiah if he should be the one God uses to repair the walls. Does it seem like it is a big problem for Nehemiah? Why not? What do these verses reveal about Nehemiah's awareness of God?

#### **Read Exodus 3.7-10 and Isaiah 58**

Nehemiah seems to have a sense of God's heart for the oppressed, broken and hurting. Why do you think God is so concerned about people in these situations?

If God is with the oppressed, broken and hurting, where does that indicate that we should be? Are we? Why or why not? Who are the oppressed, broken and hurting in your life?

How does following God to the oppressed, broken and hurting connect with Luke 9.23-24 and Jesus' invitation for us to follow Him?

Finish this statement: In my life, saying yes to God means saying no to . . .

What do all of the things you listed have in common? Why is it so difficult to say no to those things? Read John 8.31-32. What does Jesus say will be our experience if we will just say yes to Him and no to all of those other things (whether it makes sense or feels good or not)?

Saying yes to God is saying yes to go wherever, whenever, however, doing whatever He leads. According to Matthew 25.31-46, where, when, and how is He leading us and what does He want us to do?

Let's be honest, knowing God intimately and following Him obediently, seems risky and it will really mess up your life—but isn't it worth it? What is preventing you from doing this? Why? What are you going to do about it? Maybe it's actually you that God wants to repair and restore—if you'll just trust Him.