

Leading from the Knees

Nehemiah 1:1–11

Nehemiah demonstrates three characteristics of a godly leader.

1. He _____
Nehemiah 1:4

2. He _____
Nehemiah 1:4–11

3. He _____
Nehemiah 1:11

For Your Family

Review the story from last week: The Jewish people who had been taken away from their home land were allowed to return. But things were difficult. They hadn't been able to rebuild the wall that would protect Jerusalem from their enemies. When Nehemiah heard about this he wept and mourned, and fasted and prayed. This week we will read together his prayer.

Read together Nehemiah 1:1–11

Talk together about the four aspects of Nehemiah's prayer:

1. Nehemiah praised God. He called God "the great and awesome God who keeps his promises and loves his people."

Ask, "What can we praise God for?" Think of what God is like, and what things God has done for us.

2. Nehemiah admitted his sin. He told God that he knew he had sinned, and that it was wrong.

Ask, "Are there some sins we need to admit to God?"

3. Nehemiah named a biblical promise. He asked God to remember his promise that if his people returned to him and kept his commandments that he would allow them to return home.

Ask, "Can you think of a promise that God has made?"

Examples:

1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins ...

Philippians 4:19 – And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

4. Nehemiah asked for help in serving God. He asked for God to give him success when he went before the king.

Ask, "Can you think of something we can do for God's kingdom, for which we can ask God to help us?"

Pray together, using the four steps: Praise God; Admit your sin; Name a promise; Ask for help for kingdom work.

Next Week: Artaxerxes Sends Nehemiah to Jerusalem (2:1–10)