

# Praying and Planning

Nehemiah 2:1–8

*Background: waiting and trusting.*

## 1. Nehemiah Prayed

A. He prayed for \_\_\_\_\_

B. He prayed for \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Nehemiah Planned

A. He formulated a \_\_\_\_\_

B. He was ready for the \_\_\_\_\_

Application:

A. We must \_\_\_\_\_

B. We must \_\_\_\_\_

## For Your Family

**Review** our story so far:

After hearing a report that Jerusalem was in ruins, Nehemiah spent many days praying and planning about what to do.

**Read together** Nehemiah 1:11—2:8

**Explain** that a cupbearer was an important position. One of the things he did was taste the king's wine to make sure it wasn't poisoned. This shows how much the king trusted Nehemiah.

**Explain** that people were never supposed to be sad in front of the king. When the king noticed Nehemiah's sadness, it made Nehemiah afraid. But when the king asked what was wrong, Nehemiah told him: Jerusalem was in ruins, and the city gates were destroyed.

The king asked him what he wanted. This was the moment Nehemiah had been praying about for four months. He told the king that he wanted to go to Jerusalem and help rebuild the city. He asked for protection for the trip, and timber from the forest.

Nehemiah: *"And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me."* (verse 8)

**Talk together** about what Nehemiah did:

- He spent four months praying and planning.

- He overcame the danger of being sad in front of the king.

- He asked the king for help.

- He gave all the credit to God.

**Talk together** about times in our lives when we might need to spend time in prayer and planning. Sometimes we need help to overcome danger or risk in order to do the right thing. Sometimes we need to ask others for help, even people who don't know God. Whatever we do, we can give all the credit to God.

**Pray together** that you will spend more time praying and planning for what you can do for God's Kingdom. Pray that you will be ready to overcome the risks, to ask others for help, and to give all the glory to God.