

# Encouraged by the Greatness of Our God

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Our God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. vv. 5, 10

Our God is \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_. vv. 6b-7, 11

Our God is \_\_\_\_\_ in His \_\_\_\_\_. vv. 8-9

Our God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. vv. 6a, 11

We have an \_\_\_\_\_ ability to be  
in \_\_\_\_\_ with God.



NEHEMIAH

## Nehemiah 1:4–11

<sup>[4]</sup> As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. <sup>[5]</sup> And I said, “O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, <sup>[6]</sup> let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father’s house have sinned. <sup>[7]</sup> We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. <sup>[8]</sup> Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, <sup>[9]</sup> but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’ <sup>[10]</sup> They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. <sup>[11]</sup> O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

Now I was cupbearer to the king. (ESV)

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June 5, 2022

**Open:** Think of someone who's way of praying has inspired you. What did you learn from them?

**Read & Discuss:** Nehemiah 1:4-11

1. As the book of Nehemiah opened, Nehemiah learned that the Jewish people who had returned to Jerusalem following their exile were living in shame and trouble due to the poor condition of the city and its walls. Nehemiah was clearly affected by this news (v. 4). When have you been affected in a similar way after learning of the situation of other believers?
2. How does the opening line of Nehemiah's prayer in verse 5 help us understand the motivation for Nehemiah's prayer? What truths about God's character encourage you to pray?
3. What stands out to you about Nehemiah's confession in verses 6-7? Why was it important that Nehemiah acknowledge his own sin as well as the sins of his nation? Since our nation is not in a covenant relationship with God as Israel was, what is an appropriate expectation for us in confessing on behalf of our community or country?
4. In verses 8-9, Nehemiah asks God to remember His promise to Moses. How is that an appropriate request for the circumstances? In what way may this guide our own prayers?
5. How would you describe the kind of covenant relationship we have with God today? How should that covenant affect how we pray? What are some promises in Scripture that you sometimes find hard to believe? What should we do when we doubt God's promises?
6. Eight times in this text Nehemiah refers to himself and his people as servants. Given the context of this book, why do you think he chose this description? In what way should our lives be shaped by such an understanding of our own position before God?

**Apply:** What are some ways you are encouraged or challenged by Nehemiah's prayer? Is there anything God is prompting you to do as a result of our reflection on Nehemiah 1:4-11?

**Pray:** Ask God to give the people that make up Neighborhood Church a heart for the things He has a heart for—and to give each of us a clear understanding of how we might be servants of God in the context of the communities in which He has placed us.

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