

# Nehemiah Lesson 2

## Building Ministry Through Prayer - ALIGN

### Day 1 Read Nehemiah 1:1-11 A is for Affection

1. Ministry is usually more **“caught than sought”**. Nehemiah takes this difficult news about Jerusalem and turns it into an **opportunity for ministry**. This requires a serious shift in how we view our circumstances. Using the word **“ALIGN”** and the descriptions in verse 4, 8 and 9, explain the purpose of prayer. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. How do we typically view prayer? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. As a Christian community in the DFW area, one might say metaphorically that our **“walls are broken down and our gates burned with fire.”** American Christianity seems nominal at best. How might we as a church view our “local mission field” as opportunity rather than difficulty? How might this change in perception, change the way we pray? \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. As Nehemiah begins to pray, he starts with an **expression of affection**. Why is this the first thing we should do when entering the “throne room”? (Matt 22:36-40) \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. If the statement **“What you think about God affects everything you do”** is true, how will this impact our prayers? \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Day 2 Read Nehemiah 1:1-11 L is for Lower

1. The natural progression resulting from elevating God is to lower ourselves in humility. Give an example of what this would sound like for us as a body by rewriting verse 6 as though we were praying it. \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Day 3 Read Nehemiah 1:1-11 I is for Inspect and Confess

1. If our sins have been forgiven at the cross, why is it important to confess? (hint: Remember, prayer is communication.) \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. If you will notice in verses 6 and 7, Nehemiah is very specific with his and his people's sin. Read Psalm 51 (David's repentance) and list several areas where his inspection and confession is different from how you normally do it? \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Day 4 Read Nehemiah 1:1-11 G is for Gratitude

1. Read verses 8-10 and notice how gratitude is wrapped up in the character of God (His person and work). How is this different than the way we typically express thanks in prayer? What are some areas that we can specifically express gratitude for the work God has done and is doing in our body? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Gratitude means aligning our perceptions with His, about who we are and who He is. Nehemiah uses Scripture to accomplish this (i.e. Remember your faithfulness statement in verse 8). **Using your answer in the previous question**, express your gratitude with Scripture. \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Day 5 Read Nehemiah 1:1-11 N is for Needs

1. D.A. Carson seems to say it best, "***Our requests are best presented with His Word.***" If prayer is "***aligning our perceptions and wills with His***", it seems best to understand what His will is. The Bible is the source for His revealed will. Understanding this, explain Psalm 37: 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Does Nehemiah's request in verse 11 align with God's Word? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Understanding our theme verse 1 Thess 2:8 ***“Imparting the Word...Imparting our lives”*** along with Christ’s command in Matt 28:19-20, write a needs portion of a prayer below that would express our modern day request as a body. \_\_\_\_\_
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*“Simply put, prayer is  
aligning our perceptions and  
wills with God’s through the  
art of conversation.”*

