

Week 1 of September
Let's join in God's good work

- **Text:** Nehemiah 2:17~18 (September 3)
- **Bottom line:** With the hand of God's grace, we can all start over as one.

≡ **1. Praise**

(Hymn 390) 예수가 거느리시니

≡ **2. Prayer**

Thank you, God for embracing us with Your big arms, for allowing us to live in Your love. Please help us to recognize Your love in this worship time.

≡ **3. The Word**

Read Nehemiah 2:17~18 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." 18 And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

<NASB>

17 Then I said to them, "You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates have been burned by fire. Come, let's rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a disgrace." 18 And I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let's arise and build." So they put their hands to the good work.

Understanding Text

Nehemiah, who was a cupbearer of the king of Persia, came to Jerusalem as governor. He won to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem that had been destroyed. So he told the people of Judah how God had helped him with His good (gracious) hand and asked them to build a wall together. The people of Judah agreed to help rebuild the wall.

Understanding the text for Leaders

The Temple in Jerusalem is the heart of the Israel people. It was a symbolic place to worship and reveal the identity of God's people. However, the people of Israel turned away from God and worshipped idols, and as a result, they were judged, and northern Israel was destroyed by Assyria (722 B.C.) and Judah was destroyed by Babylon (586 B.C.). At that time, the temple in Jerusalem was also destroyed. However, according to God's words through the prophet Jeremiah, 70 years later, Babylon was destroyed (Jeremiah 25:12~13) and those who had been taken into captivity returned. The first return from exile took place in 537 B.C. with the governor Zerubbabel rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem. The Jews who remained in Jerusalem tried to protect themselves by building a gate, but they were unable to do so because of the obstacles (see Es. 4:11~24). The Second Return to Poro took place in 458 B.C., centered on Ezra, who worked to reform the faith. The third return of captivity took place in 444 B.C. centered on Nehemiah. Nehemiah was very sad to see that his country's recovery was slow (1:2~4). God worked through Nehemiah, who was praying and longing for the restoration of his country. King Artaxerxes of Persia heard about Nehemiah's situation and actively helped him. Nehemiah wanted to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The construction of the wall was necessary because the people could live in the city of Jerusalem and the temple could be restored to its function only if the wall was firmly built. God guided Nehemiah, who had poured his heart out for his love for God and for the good will of building the wall, and moved the hearts of the people of Judah to begin this work.

4. Sharing

1) Why did Nehemiah ask the Jews to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem? (v.17) What did he say to persuade the people? Verse 18).

Upper Grades

What words did Nehemiah use to encourage the people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem that had been destroyed? (verse 18).

Lower Grades

What did Nehemiah say to encourage the people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem? (verse 18).

Question Guide

Nehemiah set foot on the soil of his homeland with the hope of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, which had been destroyed. God helped him with a good hand until he was appointed governor of Jerusalem with the king's permission and help. Nehemiah shared the help and guidance he had experienced with God to unite the hearts of the people of Judah to rebuild the wall. Consider Nehemiah's heart as you look at the text.

Commentary for Leaders

Nehemiah confessed his faith in how God had guided him from Persia to here and how He would lead him.

He explained it to the people of Judah. Those who listened to him were encouraged by a shared vision and conviction. At that time, the Jeru Salem Temple had been built, but the walls had been abandoned and not many people visited the temple. In order for the temple to function, the surrounding environment had to be put in order. Once the wall was built and people lived in the city, the temple could be well maintained. When the people listened to Nehemiah, they sympathized with their problems. They were all courageous because they were convinced that God was with Nehemiah.

2) Just as the people of Judah gathered their hearts to rebuild the wall, what is it for our family to begin again?

■ **Upper Grades**

What did I give up on the way that I had the courage to start over with faith?

■ **Lower Grades**

When God is with us, we can have the courage to start over. Say to your parents, "Mom and Dad, cheer up!" Say, "Hey, I'm going to do it."

□ **Question Guide**

Nehemiah preached to the people of Judah about the God who had helped him all this time. Remembering God's power, God's help, and God's presence, share what we need to do as a family. If it is a good thing for the kingdom of God, God will give our family courage, meet their needs, and make it happen.

□ **Commentary for Leaders**

Nehemiah had a vision of the restoration of Jerusalem. When he prayed for this, God opened up the situation and moved the heart of the king of Persia to appoint Nehemiah as governor of Jerusalem. Nehemiah was a man of prayer, a man of careful planning, and a man of devotion. Above all, he had a sincere faith in God. He persuaded the people of Judah by confessing that everything he experienced was God's guidance. Like Nehemiah, we must be people who pray with good intentions for the kingdom of God. Looking back on how God has been with us and helping us so far, Encourage each other.

≡ **5. Be grateful**

Confess and thank God for being with you and leading our family with His good hand.

≡ **6. Prayer**

God, I believe that you touch our hearts and guide us to fulfill your good will. Please let our family look at God's work with the eyes of faith, and be willing to be used in good works that are pleasing to God.

- End the family worship service with the "Prayer the Lord Taught You."