

**The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – April 17-22**  
***Doing Life Together – The Kingdom Now!***

**MONDAY:** Matthew 9:36-38, 2 Kings 25:10, Proverbs 25:28

**KEY VERSE:** Nehemiah 1:3

**OBSERVATION** Other Jews in Babylon had probably heard about the conditions in Jerusalem, shaken their heads and said, “My, my! That’s too bad!” They went back to their work in Babylon thinking, “What a tragedy!” But they were not burdened by the need of God’s people in the land. But the man that God used to do something about it not only heard about the need. He felt their need. He wept, mourned, fasted and prayed for days about what he had heard. He just couldn’t put it out of his mind. God used that burden as the basis for action.

**TUESDAY:** 2 Chronicles 6:40, Psalm 102:17

**KEY VERSE:** Nehemiah 1:6-7b

**OBSERVATION:** The Bible is clear that at the root of all our global and personal problems is sin. Why are there wars and terrorist attacks? Sin. Why are there famine and disease? Sin. Why are governments and businesses churches, individuals riddled with greed and corruption? Sin. Whatever the problem, you can trace its roots back to sin, either to the original sin of Adam and Eve, or directly to the sins of the people with the problems. If God is going to use us to help alleviate any great need, we need to keep clear in our focus, that at the root of the problem is human sin.

**WEDNESDAY:** Matthew 16:18, Revelation 5:9

**KEY VERSE:** Nehemiah 1:9

**OBSERVATION:** We live in such a man-centered age that we easily can fall into the error of thinking that God’s purpose is to save people because He loves them and wants them to be happy. But that is a man-centered goal. God’s purpose is not man-centered; it is God-centered. God does love people and He wants them to be happy, but not as the final end in itself. Saving people is a means toward God’s purpose, but it is not the end of God’s purpose.

**THURSDAY:** Exodus 6:6, Psalm 136:12, Deuteronomy 9:29

**KEY VERSE:** Nehemiah 1:10

**OBSERVATION:** Five times in that verse he repeats “you” and “your” as if to say, “These aren’t my people, God; they’re Your people.” God wants us to feel the burden for others, but then He wants us to roll that burden back on Him, remembering that it is not our power, but His power, that redeems them.

**FRIDAY** Genesis 40:1, Genesis 40:21,

**KEY VERSE:** Nehemiah 1:11

**OBSERVATION:** The cupbearer was a high position in the court. His responsibility was to choose and taste the wine before it was served to the king to make sure that it was not poisoned. He would have been a handsome man, well-trained in court etiquette. He would have to be a friendly companion, willing to lend an ear and even to give advice to the king. Since he enjoyed closest access to the king, he was a highly trusted man. Early documents also reveal that the cupbearer could be the keeper of the royal signet, be in charge of administration of the accounts, and even serve as second to the king

**SATURDAY:** Nehemiah 1:4, Nehemiah 2:20

**KEY VERSE:** Nehemiah 2:4

**OBSERVATION:** The rest of the book of Nehemiah is an account of how he overcame one obstacle after another. There was overt and covert opposition from enemies. There were problems within the ranks that could have stopped the work. But Nehemiah persisted and the wall was completed in 52 days!