

Hearing from God
Today's Talk: Making a Difference
Nehemiah 1:1-11

NOTES:

For Starters: When have you been moved to do something (that you would not normally do)? What was your *why* or reason to act? What happened as a result? Discuss.

The Basics: Read Nehemiah 1 along with the Project 414 Prayer Journal and Devotional – *Introduction* and *Responding to Bad News*. What would you say are the greatest needs of the communities you live, work and play in?

Quick Fire Round:

Read Nehemiah 1:1-4. What did Nehemiah ask Hanani? What was significant about the report Nehemiah received? How have you reacted to bad news and what can you learn from Nehemiah's response?

- Summarize Nehemiah's prayer (1:4-11). What can you learn and apply about prayer through this passage?
- Why did Nehemiah choose to act on the bad news, despite the fact it did not directly impact his life? What motivated Nehemiah to do something about the condition of the city, the people and the Temple? Do you agree people are likely more motivated to act when something bad (or good) impacts them directly?
- The Jewish people had previously tried (and failed) to rebuild the Temple (Ezra 4:6-23). Have you given up on something important because of past failures? What motivated Nehemiah to try again? What might you need to return to and finish despite a past failure or difficulty?
- Read 1:11. What was significant about Nehemiah's role as cupbearer to the King? Nehemiah found himself in a strategic position to make a difference and carry out a God-sized vision. Where has God placed you, and North Metro Church – *for such a time as this* (**Esther 4:14**)?

The challenge: In light of Nehemiah Ch. 1, discuss NMC's vision to become a community hub. Consider the *what* and the *why*? How could we meet the needs of the north area community? Start to pray and ask God to show you how you can be involved?