

# **I Love My City**

Brad McConnaughey // February 9, 2020  
Nehemiah 1:1-11 (Pages 383, 472, or 476)

## Read the Bible this year

Pastor Brad encouraged us to read the Bible in 2020. Here's some help getting started. Each day this week read from the Old and New Testament. Or, if you prefer, read just from one testament. Enjoy!

1. **Exodus 36-38**
2. **Exodus 39-40; Matthew 23**
3. **Leviticus 1-3**
4. **Leviticus 4-5; Matthew 24**
5. **Leviticus 6-7; Matthew 25**
6. **Leviticus 8-10**
7. **Leviticus 11-12**

### Life Group Questions

1. What guidance did Pastor Brad's message, as well as his conversation with Arie Mahler, give you as you consider the Compassion Center ministry?

Read **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10**. How does this verse relate to Pastor Brad's message?

2. Read **Nehemiah 1:1-4**. How did Nehemiah respond to the news about Jerusalem and his fellow Jews? Why do you think he responded that way?

When Nehemiah heard the news of Jerusalem, he lived in Susa – 800 miles away. Lynnwood is where our church exists. How well do you think we respond to the needs of people in our neighborhood?

3. Read **Luke 19:41**. As Nehemiah mourned over his fellow Jews and Jerusalem, Jesus wept over Jerusalem and its residents. How have you responded to the needs of the people of Lynnwood?

How does a person cultivate compassion for others if they lack concern?

4. One of the most striking characteristics of Nehemiah is that he was a man of prayer. Read the following verses: **1:4; 2:4; 4:4, 9; 5:19; 6:9, 14; 13:14, 22, 29, 31**. Someone has said that those who are the boldest for God have the greatest need to be in prayer. Do you agree? Explain.

How do you think our need to pray relates to the Compassion Center?

How does Nehemiah's example help you understand the relationship between prayer and action?

5. **Nehemiah 1:3** tells us that the Jews in Jerusalem were in "great trouble and disgrace." Do you think that is true of the people in Lynnwood? If so, how do you see this?

The Jews of Nehemiah's day who returned to Jerusalem were survivors of the Babylonian Exile. Read **Romans 8:35-37**. God has made it possible in Christ for all to be "more than conquerors." How do you see the Compassion Center helping people to be "more than conquerors" through Jesus Christ and not just survivors?

6. It has been said, "God works in you before He works through you." Read **Philippians 2:13** and **Ephesians 2:10**. How will you allow God to work in you to do His will through the Compassion Center and/or in other ways?

If you have further questions about the Compassion Center contact Arie Mahler, Compassion Center Director, through the church office.