

Revive Devotional – Week of April 19th
Rebuilding
Subtitle: **Having a Heart for Those Who are Suffering**

Hi Revive Family,

We're starting a new series this week called 'Rebuilding'! For this series, we will be studying a book of the Bible, the book of Nehemiah. Our hope with this series is to glean lessons and insights from the rebuilding efforts of the Israelites that we can learn from and apply to our own lives as we look to the future of rebuilding life post-pandemic.

Some further background on the book of Nehemiah:

- This is an Old Testament book that recounts the part of Israel's history where the Israelites are returning to Jerusalem to rebuild their lives after the Babylonian captivity.
- The events likely took place around the 5th century BCE.
- Nehemiah is a continuation of the book of Ezra – together, these books tell the story of three key leaders – Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah – who help to rebuild and reestablish life in Jerusalem.
- Zerubbabel led the effort to rebuild the temple, Ezra came to teach the law, and Nehemiah was the one who leads the effort to rebuild Jerusalem's walls.

Each week we have a Revive devotional, we will be going over a section of the book. For this week, the reading is Nehemiah 1 and Nehemiah 2:1-10. Nehemiah hears of the broken down walls of Jerusalem, and that the people there are in distress. As cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia, Nehemiah was in a privileged position, and he himself was not suffering because of the state in Jerusalem. However, when he hears of the devastation there, he identifies with the people in Jerusalem, prays for them, and asks the king to allow him to go and rebuild the walls. Nehemiah goes to rebuild the walls, not for himself, but for the people who are in need there.

As we begin this journey of rebuilding, let us keep in mind those who are the most in need, and who have been most impacted by the pandemic.

Also, here is the schedule for the next few months of Revive, and what chapters in Nehemiah we will be covering for each week:

- This week, week of April 19th: Nehemiah 1, 2:1-10
- Week of May 3rd: Nehemiah 2:11-20, 3
- Week of May 24th: Nehemiah 4, 5, 6
- Week of June 7th: Nehemiah 7, 8, 9, 10
- Week of June 21st: Nehemiah 11, 12, 13

NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 1, 2:1-10

Reading Notes & Observations:

Questions:

Key Verses or Phrases:

Application:

- What has our personal experience with the pandemic been like this past year? How have our lives been affected?
- As we think about rebuilding life, what are the needs we see around us? Who has been most impacted? Is there anyone God wants to highlight for us?
- How can we use what God has given us to help those in need during this time? How can we play a part in rebuilding life for others?