

APATHY



JANUARY 28 – FEBRUARY 3

WELCOME

- Spend the first few minutes visiting and catching up.
- Take attendance. Who's missing?

PRAY

Lord, thank you for bringing us here today to have fellowship with others. Help us to hear your words and their meaning for our lives and may those words guide our paths. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The word "apathy" can carry a variety of meanings. What comes to your mind when you hear it?
- Share about a time in your life when you have felt apathetic. What impact did that apathy have on your relationships, your faith, or the situation you were in?
- Re-read this week's Scripture. Looking at the story of Nehemiah, what role does apathy play? Why would it have been challenging for Nehemiah to avoid having an apathetic outlook?
- There is a cost to caring deeply (an opposite response from apathy). What are some of the costs you can think of? Why would it be worth it to choose the path of deep caring and investment over apathy in your own life?
- Having faith rituals or habits can be a powerful counterbalance to apathy. If you've experienced this, share about how that was true for you. What faith habits are you engaged with currently? What new ones might you want to explore in this current season?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nehemiah 2:1-5, 11-12 & 17-19

2 In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, 2 so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart." I was very much afraid, 3 but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" 4 The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, 5 and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it."

11 I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days 12 I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." 18 I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work. 19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"