

Day of Prayer

SU Scotland

Thursday 20 January | 2022

Rebuild with Prayer

Thank you for downloading this Prayer Guide and for taking part in the SU Scotland Day of Prayer. Our two key values are **dependence on God** and **deepening relationships**. We depend on God for everything: finance, staff, resources, direction, equipping, fruitfulness. We want to deepen our relationship with him, and with one another. And so, we come to him in prayer.

Bible

In SU Scotland, we want to REIMAGINE and REBUILD. When we think of rebuilding and our response to the enormity of the task, there is no finer example than Nehemiah. Let's allow Nehemiah 1:1-2:8 to direct our thoughts and prayers. A video of the passage is on our website: suscotland.org.uk/dop.

They answered, "Nehemiah, those who are left from the captivity are back in the area of Judah. But they are in much trouble and are full of shame. The wall around Jerusalem is broken down. And its gates have been burned."

When I heard these things, I sat down and cried for several days. I was sad and did not eat food. I prayed to the God of heaven. I said, "Lord, God of heaven, you are the great God who is to be respected. You keep your agreement of love with those who love you and obey your commands. Listen carefully. Look at me. Hear the prayer your servant is praying to you day and night. I am praying for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites have done against you. My father's family and I have sinned against you. We have been wicked toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, rules and laws you gave your servant Moses." Nehemiah 1:3-7

Nehemiah was deeply troubled. What he heard affected him.

Lament

Recent research shows that...

- Only 53% of young people believe Jesus was a real person
- More young people believe in ghosts than God. Does that upset you? What is God's heart, do you think?
- Like Nehemiah, take time to mourn, pray, confess. Ask God to show you what he wants you to do.

Praise

"Remember what you taught your servant Moses. You said, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations. But if you come back to me and obey my commands, I will gather your people. I will gather them from the far ends of the earth. And I will bring them from captivity to where I have chosen to be worshipped.'

"They are your servants and your people. You have saved them with your great strength and power. Lord, listen carefully to my prayer. I am your servant. And listen to the prayers of your servants who love to honour you." Nehemiah 1:8-11

Nehemiah remembered God's promises. He remembered God's character. This renewed his confidence and stirred his faith.

- Where have you seen God's faithfulness in SU ministry this year? Have you seen an answer to prayer? What are you thankful for? Reflect. Praise.
- Worship through music. Sing, play or listen to a favourite track.

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Back to work!

Nehemiah's prayer request was left with God. Meanwhile, Nehemiah returned to work.

I was the one who served wine to the king. It was the month of Nisan. It was in the twentieth year King Artaxerxes was king. He wanted some wine. So I took some and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before. So the king said, "Why does your face look sad? You are not sick. Your heart must be sad."
Nehemiah 1:11-2:2

God was almost immediately at work. The king initiated a conversation with Nehemiah that Nehemiah wasn't expecting. Give thanks that God goes ahead!

- Pray for the Board, Leadership Team and all those in governance of SU Scotland. Pray for a clear sense of God's leading.
- Pray that staff and volunteers follow Jesus closely, so they are sensitive to the leading of his Spirit.
- Pray for conversations that lead young people to Jesus.

Then I was very afraid. I said to the king, "May the king live forever! My face is sad because the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins. And its gates have been destroyed by fire." Then the king said to me, "What do you want?" First, I prayed to the God of heaven. Then I answered the king, "Send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried. I will rebuild it. Do this if you are willing and if I have pleased you."
Nehemiah 2:2-5

There are particular areas of SU ministry we want to see rebuilt, including SU Groups in schools, SU Holidays & Missions, residentials at our centres and training events. We are also needing to rebuild our team of staff and volunteers.

The queen was sitting next to the king. He asked me, "How long will your trip take? When will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me. So I set a time. I also said to him, "If you are willing, give me letters for the governors west of the Euphrates River. Tell them to let me pass safely through their lands on my way to Judah. And may I have a letter for Asaph? He is the keeper of the king's forest. Tell him to give me timber. I will need it to make boards for the gates of the palace. It is by the Temple. The wood is also for the city wall and the house I will live in." So the king gave me the letters. This was because God was showing kindness to me. So I went to the governors west of the Euphrates River. I gave them the king's letters. The king had also sent army officers and soldiers on horses with me.
Nehemiah 2:6-9

Nehemiah had a strategy. Our strategy is bold: we want every young person in Scotland to have the opportunity explore the Bible and respond to the significance of Jesus.

- Pray for an increased reach. Currently we reach 2% of Scotland's young people and we would love to reach 5%. Pray into two new areas of recruitment: Head of Digital, and Lead of Ministry at the Margins.
- Pray that young people will be bold in wanting to follow Jesus and telling friends about him.
- Pray for effective discipleship events that train Christian young people to stand firm.

The story continues. Nehemiah faced opposition, but people came alongside him to help. With perseverance, prayerfulness, and the power of God's Spirit upon him for the task, the walls were rebuilt. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away. Pray we too rebuild to God's glory!