

**HOT
TOPIX**



Family Matters

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I am Nehemiah son of Hacaliah, and in this book I tell what I have done.

During the month of Chisleu in the twentieth year that Artaxerxes ruled Persia, I was in his fortress city of Susa, when my brother Hanani came with some men from Judah. So I asked them about the Jews who had escaped from being captives in Babylonia. I also asked them about the city of Jerusalem.

They told me, "Those captives who have come back are having all kinds of troubles. They are terribly disgraced, Jerusalem's walls are broken down, and its gates have been burned."

When I heard this, I sat down and cried. Then for several days, I mourned; I went without eating to show my sorrow, and I prayed:

Lord God of heaven, You are great and fearsome. And You faithfully keep Your promises to everyone who loves You and obeys Your commands. I am Your servant, so please have mercy on me and answer the prayer that I make day and night for these people of Israel who serve You. I, my family, and the rest of Your people have sinned by choosing to disobey You and the laws and teachings You gave to Your servant Moses.

Please remember the promise You made to Moses. You told him that if we were unfaithful, You would scatter us among foreign nations. But You also said that no matter how far away we were, we could turn to You and start obeying Your laws. Then You would bring us back to the place where You have chosen to be worshiped.

Our Lord, I am praying for Your servants—those You rescued by Your great strength and mighty power. Please answer my prayer and the prayer of Your other servants who gladly honor Your name. When I serve the king his wine today, make him pleased with me and have him do what I ask. Nehemiah 1:1-11

How to Manage the Most Pressing Family Challenges:

1. _____ your family situation thoroughly. – vv. 1-3

When I saw this, I gave careful consideration to it; I received instruction from what I saw. Proverbs 24:32

After careful consideration, Jesus replied. Luke 10:30

2. _____ before God in humility. – vv.4-5

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. Proverbs 11:2

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up in honor. James 4:10

Man is never sufficiently touched and affected by the awareness of his lowly state until he has compared himself with God's majesty. John Calvin

3. _____ any wrongdoing you have committed. – vv. 5-7

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. Proverbs 28:13

Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. Acts 3:19

4. _____ observe God's commands. – vv. 8-11

Love the Lord your God and keep His requirements, His decrees, His laws and His commands always. Deuteronomy 10:1

But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice. Luke 11:28

Memory Verse

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you have a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13

Next Steps

- I will surrender my family situation to the Lord and humbly seek His peace.
- I will confess my sins to God so that I might be a part of the solution and not the problem.
- I will walk closely with Jesus daily so that my family has me at my best.