



RISE UP

AND

PRAY

PRAYER GUIDE

8th - 11th July



Introduction

Two things to note before we begin:

1

When Nehemiah heard of the brokenness of the people of God and the city of Jerusalem, God gave him a burden for both which he immediately took back to God in prayer. This is what God is asking of us during our half week of prayer.

2

Nehemiah was a cup bearer to King Artaxerxes, who released him to return to Jerusalem with a letter of authority for the provision of timber in order to rebuild the gates of Jerusalem. We too serve a King. Jesus has given us authority and won all that we need in order to see the rebuilding of the City of Leicester. This should guide us in our praying.

*Like the disciples
we ask the Lord to*

**teach us
how to pray**

I believe that in this moment the Lord is talking to us again about repentance and specifically, identification and generational repentance as Nehemiah showed us.

This challenges our individualism, but none the less there are times when we should repent of past and present generations' sins as our own, whether we were or are directly involved or not. When praying this way avoid going on a guilt trip, the Holy Spirit convicts but the enemy accuses and condemns.

I believe the Lord is again reminding us that we have the authority of the King to deal with the matters of injustice in our city, specifically those that have been highlighted during lockdown.

We have authority to declare the Lordship of Jesus and the Kingdom of God as we decree his purposes, note HIS PURPOSES.

This is different from decreeing our own vision which can create confusion and is ungodly because it becomes manipulative causing distortion, so that when things don't look how we think they should they we miss out on God's blessing.

The most obvious example of this is the Jews not recognising Jesus because he wasn't the Messiah they had in mind. The important thing here is that we decree scripture that releases God's purposes.

From the dictionary:

Decree

noun:

1. A formal and authoritative order, especially one having the force of law: a presidential decree.
2. Law. a judicial decision or order.
3. Theology. one of the eternal purposes of God, by which events are foreordained.

Isaiah 54:17 says

“No weapon forged against you will prevail (succeed, prosper) and you shall refute every tongue that raises against you in judgement”

With the authority we have been given we can decree this over the city and break every curse broken against it.

We then speak and release a blessing to replace it:

“This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication from me declares the Lord”

This is warfare prayer

The blessing here is vindication from the Lord. In all of this we speak out declarations of who God is, His goodness, who we are in Christ, His promises etc.

The dictionary definition of declare is “to announce or express something clearly and publically,” so we make declarations in heaven and on earth

Praying as Nehemiah did:

Suggestions for how we pray in this time. Please note this is not a formula, though I hope you will find it helpful to use this as a set of steps.

If you have signed up for more than one hour you might want to use the same steps for different burdens, people groups, subject areas of prayer, or you might want to use just one or two of the steps.



Nehemiah 1:4

Begin by asking God to give you a burden to pray for the city of Leicester and county, asking him to place specific things on your heart for intercession, this may be an affirmation of a burden you already have, something new or both



Nehemiah 1:5

Acknowledge God's sovereignty using your own prayers, scripture and if you wish sung worship.



Nehemiah 1:6-7

Identify with the sins of the city (see notes above).
Some specific areas that I believe we need to address in prayer:

Racism in the city. Leicester is well known for its racial harmony but we do have a history of race riots in the 1970s and, from our own Black Lives Matter conversations with our black members, we know that racism exists in society at large, in families and work places and in institutions including the church.

This pandemic has further revealed the issues of poverty and abuse in our city, highlighting the difference between those who have and have not, those who have opportunities to rise up out of poverty and those who have no way out.

The recent news of the factories in the city working in lockdown, paying much less than the minimum wage for its workers, reveal terrible exploitation that not only happens but has been ignored by city authorities and neighbourhoods. (I believe it's a scheme of the enemy to use this information in our localised lockdown to stir up racism in the city - we have authority to disarm the demonic in the spiritual realm so do this as you pray). There are other areas of exploitation too.

God has been deconstructing his church in this time and is birthing something new. Our city has, like many others since the 1960s, failed to declare the Gospel and compromised in the message that Jesus is the only way to the Father: He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Praise God for those that have, but remember here we are identifying with the whole.

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Nehemiah 1:8-10

Plead God's covenant promises. Jeremiah 33:9 is one of the promises that has been given to the city. This is a good one to start with. There are general promises of scripture you can declare and decree, including personal ones, your family, your missional community and the wider the church. See notes on this above). The email I sent to calling us to pray offers themes that God has spoken to us about particularly in proclaiming the full Gospel and seeing many come to faith.

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Nehemiah 1:11

Pray for success. Pray for leaders and those in authority, for our businesses and the charity sector, for our Universities and schools, for our families and neighbourhoods, for the church across the city and Holy Trinity.



htl church