

2020 VISION SPECSAVERS



Key verse: Nehemiah 2:8 (NIV)

'And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.'

SHOULD HAVE GONE TO SPECSAVERS

A while ago I started getting headaches. Occasionally they would get so bad that my eyes would go blurry. A friend of mine said 'maybe you need glasses'. Glasses! Why would I need glasses?!

Well, I went for a vision test and you know what? It turned out that I needed glasses. The moment I looked through my new lenses I thought 'Wow, I can see!'. When you have 20/20 Vision it means you can see clearly, you have perfect vision. My vision was off and it took a trip to Specsavers for me to realise it.

NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah was born in a time in Israel's history where the people had been exiled (they weren't aloud in their own country). Most of the people that hadn't been killed had been carried off to a kingdom called Babylon. Nehemiah was one of these men.

Nehemiah was the king's cup bearer. This meant that he was one of the kings most trusted bodyguards. He was like the Israelite version of James Bond. In those days, a great way of killing a king would be to poison him, so it was Nehemiah's job to taste the kings drink before him. Just in case it was poisoned.

One day Nehemiah's brother came to visit and he told him all about their home town Jerusalem. It was in a state! The people were in trouble, the walls had been broken down and the gates

had been burned with fire. This caused Nehemiah's 'specsavers moment'. He'd been blissfully unaware of all of this, but as soon as he saw what was happening back home he changed. Suddenly, he could see clearly. Suddenly, He had 20/20 vision.



SOMETHING TO DO

Over the next five weeks we're going to be learning about Nehemiah. As he re-built the walls, why don't you play Jenga!

Nehemiah confesses to God how sinful he, his family and his nation have been. He knows that it's because of these reasons that his people had been sent into exile in the first place. But he also knows that if they return to God he'll forgive them. But he doesn't stop there... he prays, then he acts.

He decides to rebuild the walls. The only trouble is that He's cup bearer to the king. The only way He's going to be able to go is if he asks the king... Scary! But before he does, he prays... 'Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.' (Nehemiah 1:11, NIV) Nehemiah was very afraid but he knew that God was with him. So he speaks to the King and guess what? The king says Yes!

Nehemiah's vision was off, he was seeing blurry. But as soon as he saw the problem. He prayed, trusted God, then he did something about it.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

- Is there a problem in your life that you need to change your vision about?
- What problems in this world do you want to do something about?



PRAYER

Lord, there are so many problems in this world. Help me to see what those problems are. To trust you to be with me. Then help me to do something about it. Amen.