**Small Group Notes -Sunday April 30th 2017**

**Nehemiah Chapter 1 – Kingdom Building Starts With Prayer**

**Welcome**

Nehemiah was ‘cupbearer to the king’ – what is the closest you have ever been to royalty?

**Worship**

Use Psalm 150, a psalm of praise, as a basis for your own time of praise and worship of our sovereign God.

**Word**

***Nehemiah chapter 1 - Kingdom Building Starts with Prayer***

**Nehemiah prays –** with weeping, fasting, mourning, for some days…(v1-4)‘You only know what prayer is for, when you know that life is war’ *(John Piper)*
**Nehemiah’s prayer -**- rooted in the sovereignty of God (v5, v10)
- built on the promises of God (v5, v8-9)
- trusting in the grace of God (v 6, 7, 9, 11)
- results in action for God (v11)

1. What do we learn about Nehemiah, his character and values from this passage?
2. How does he react to the news he receives (v4)?
Do you react / have you ever reacted in a similar way?
What moves you to pray in this way?
3. What characteristics of God do we find in v 5-11?
4. Why is a belief in God’s sovereignty so crucial for effective prayer? (v5, 10)
5. Nehemiah quotes God’s promises back to Him in this prayer. What do you think of that? Is that something you include in your prayers? (v5, 8-9)
6. What sins does Nehemiah confess here?
What does that reveal about his faith?
Despite this, he continues to ask God for his favour – is that surprising?
7. What specific things from this study will affect how you pray in the future?

**Prayer**

* For a renewed sense of urgency in our prayer
* For the persecuted church, in the frontline of the spiritual battle
* For young people facing significant exams; for their families and youth leaders supporting them
* For all the planning towards the church-plant in Malden Manor