



Nehemiah

**Old
Testament**

β 16th book of the Bible (out of 66)

β 1.31% of the verses in the Bible

β Written by Nehemiah

What do you do when God puts something on your heart that seems really difficult? Pray. Be honest with God. Talk with others. Pray some more. Get on with the task.

This is what happened to Nehemiah. He wasn't a priest nor a prophet - he served the king of Persia (Artaxerxes I). He had a prominent job, but he made time to listen to God. Zerubbabel led the first return of captives and then around 85 years later Ezra led quite a few Jews back to Jerusalem from their exile. About thirteen years after this, Nehemiah was stirred by God and returned but things weren't going well at all there! Jerusalem was physically and spiritually in a bad state.

With the blessing of the king, Nehemiah travelled the 900 miles back to Jerusalem with a few others. He was immensely troubled by what he saw. Steadily the walls began to be rebuilt though. He and the team

Facts: It's one of the few books of the Bible written in the first person. Ezra and Nehemiah appear as one Book in the Hebrew Bible - the Tanakh.

he was leading faced continued and intense ridicule, wrath and outright discouragement.

Their work was difficult. They pressed on regardless. They were persistent in following God's plan. Faith was renewed. God's Will was done. Once the walls are completed, something more important occurs. They renew their covenant with God. Having a pure faith was of the utmost importance to them.

It's thought that this was the last Old Testament book to be written.

Aim to read the whole book over the next two weeks.