

CATEGORY
Biblical Worldview

TITLE
Prayer

REFERENCE
Nehemiah 2:1–9

• orange merit •

Nehemiah

LEADERS LESSON OVERVIEW—Lesson 3



FOR THE LEADER

In this lesson, we will discover how prayer moves the Hand of God.

KEY POINT

Prayer changes things.

KEY VERSE

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. **James 5:16**

Note: Boys are not required to memorize the Key Point or Key Verse to receive completion credit for this lesson.

For information on how to use Bible merits in a Royal Rangers meeting, refer to the TRaCclub Support section or the *Royal Rangers Leader Manual*.

REFLECT ANSWERS

These answers match the questions in the Reflect section of the boys' sheet.

- We need God's guidance and help.
- Answers will vary.
- Answers may vary but could include the following: Pray. Let God assign the job and then follow His instructions.



MATERIALS & PREP

Prepare a copy of the Student Handout for each boy.

- Paper and colored pencils or markers for each boy

Read the lesson in advance, taking note of the main points. Be prepared to present the lesson to your group, but avoid reading it word for word. Include discussion with the group to make it more enjoyable for everyone.

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STUDENT HANDOUT—Lesson 3



KEY THOUGHTS

KEY POINT

Prayer changes things.

KEY VERSE

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. **James 5:16**



READ

In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.”

I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

The king said to me, “What is it you want?”

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

Then the king, with the queen sitting beside

him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests. So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king’s letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me. **Nehemiah 2:1–9**

Have you ever been nervous? Maybe you had a big part in the school play. Or maybe you were batting at a key point in a baseball game. When you are nervous you may have sweaty palms,

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NEHEMIAH—Lesson 3

a fast heartbeat, and a dry mouth. Nehemiah was nervous. He worked for the king, and God had given him a mission: to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. To do this job, he needed the king's favor and help.

The king saw that Nehemiah was sad. So the king asked about it. Nehemiah explained that his sadness was because the great city of his people was in ruins. The king then asked what Nehemiah wanted. The next three words reveal the perfect response to being nervous:

“Then I prayed.”

Nehemiah knew that on his own he would fail. He did not think the king would help him unless God moved the king to do so. For Nehemiah, prayer was the only way to proceed.

We all face hard tasks. Sometimes God gives us some big dreams. When we find ourselves in a situation that makes us nervous, we should pray.

Nehemiah's prayer was effective. The king gave Nehemiah what he asked for. If Nehemiah had chickened out or not asked for what he needed, he might have failed. Because Nehemiah prayed and did as God said, he got the job done.

God has a job for you, too. He has big goals for all His people. He wants you to be as successful as Nehemiah was. To do this, start with prayer. Ask God for favor, blessing, protection, and everything you need to do your job. Then, work hard. God's work is seldom easy or simple, but it is rewarding. You won't regret obeying God.



REFLECT

As a group, discuss the following questions.

- Why is prayer essential when facing challenges?
- When have you been nervous in the face of a difficult task?
- What can you do to make sure your next project is successful?

Review the Key Point and the Key Verse.

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for always helping us in our times of need. Please help me as I try to do Your will. Give me the strength, boldness, and resources to do what You command, and help me to succeed. Amen.



RESPOND

Sometimes it can be hard to know what to say when you need to pray. In those times, it can be helpful to have a prayer memorized. Spend time over the next few days memorizing Matthew 6:9–13. These short verses, known as the Lord's Prayer, are a great starting place when you get stuck trying to pray.

Remember to read your Bible this week using the Bible reading plan of your choice. A recommended plan can be found in the Bible Reading merit or online at royalrangers.com. Review this lesson with a friend or parent as a way to help you remember it.