**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**January 20th 2019. Praying with the Saints**

**Discussion notes: Praying with Nehemiah. Nehemiah 1:1-11.**

The Bible includes the prayers of many great men and women of God which are incredibly helpful in teaching us how to pray.

Nehemiah opens with a wonderful prayer, but throughout the book there are constant references to short ‘arrow prayers’ he prays in the midst of his very active life.

1. Nehemiah’s response to bad news from Jerusalem is to fast and pray. Why is fasting appropriate at this time? When should fasting accompany prayer? Is it sometimes appropriate to fast and not pray, just as we pray and don’t fast and if so what would be the purpose?
2. What does Nehemiah appeal to when he prays?
3. Nehemiah seems to me to exemplify ‘intercession’ in this prayer, pleading to God on other’s behalf. How would you define intercession? With whom does Nehemiah identify?
4. Throughout the book Nehemiah uses the word ‘remember’ in prayer often? Why? Is it a word we use in prayer and if not why not?
5. What is the difference between this substantial intercessory prayer and the other prayers Nehemiah prays in the book?

What would the outcome for Nehemiah and his experience have been like do you think if he had tried to rebuild Jerusalem without prayer?