

Lesson Aim: To grow in our ability to see the world through the eyes of Jesus, and in our capacity to bring the life of Jesus to those less fortunate.



connecting

Prayer: Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

Icebreaker: Share a situation when you were treated unfairly (in the store, at the bank, etc.). How did you react?

1. **Read Nehemiah 1:1-11.** Living in comfort and security in the Persian capital, the Israelites' problems in Jerusalem must have seemed far away to Nehemiah. What do we learn from his reaction to their difficulties?
2. Note the wording of his prayer. How does Nehemiah see the Israelites' problems in relation to his own?
3. **Read Nehemiah 2:1-8.** Nehemiah, as cupbearer to the Persian King Artaxerxes, enjoyed stability and social status. And yet he asked permission to leave it all to return to Jerusalem to help rebuild the wall. When was the last time you focused on problems and issues that were not your own? What was the result?



growing

4. How can we learn to think of the world's problems not as *theirs* but *ours*?
5. Before Nehemiah took any action to help his people, he sought God. How can this approach serve to check our own ambitions?
6. In his message Sunday, Dave Wayman described four "Stages of Grief" in response to injustice:
 - 1) Anger (at injustice); 2) Despair-Denial; 3) Acceptance ("I can do something"); and 4) Resolve ("I will do something"). In your personal response to the issue of human trafficking, where do you think you might be in these four stages? Please share about where you are and how you got there.



sewing

7. **Read *Not for Sale* excerpt:** Page 16 (starting at paragraph 5)-Page 17. Considering the historical situations cited, what reasons might people of those times have given for not getting involved in justice for slaves or Jews?
8. What reasons do people give today for not getting involved with justice issues concerning human trafficking?
9. **Read Jeremiah 22:3 and Isaiah 58:1-8.** What characterizes the kind of justice God wants among His people? What are some ways you have seen or experienced justice like this among God's people today?



reaching

10. What might justice look like for us now that we know human trafficking is going on?

Close in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads you. Pray for God to open the eyes of rescue organizations to see girls who need rescuing and for His favor in their efforts. Pray for the salvation of the perpetrators, and that their evil efforts will be thwarted.



The Bridge: Mission's Month 2012

PROVIDING HOPE AND A FUTURE TO RUSSIA'S INVISIBLE

SEEK JUSTICE

Dave Wayman
OC International Missionary
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