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Nehemiah 1:4

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Nehemiah's Rules for Good Relationships

- ◆ Rule #1: Pray before you speak or act
- ◆ Get right with God

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Nehemiah 1:5-7

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**Nehemiah's Rules for Good Relationships**

- ◆ Rule #1: Pray before you speak or act
  - ◆ Get right with God
  - ◆ Remind yourself of God's power & promises

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**Nehemiah 1:8-11**

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**Nehemiah's Rules for Good Relationships**

- ◆ Rule #1: Pray before you speak or act
  - ◆ Get right with God
  - ◆ Remind yourself of God's power & promises
  - ◆ Wait for the green light

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Nehemiah's Rules for Good Relationships

- ◆ Rule #2: Use your opportunity to speak wisely
  - ◆ Say what's on your heart
  - ◆ Respectfully express your wishes

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Nehemiah's Rules for Good Relationships

- ◆ Rule #2: Use your opportunity to speak wisely
  - ◆ Say what's on your heart
  - ◆ Respectfully express your wishes
  - ◆ Negotiate an agreement

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Nehemiah 2:5-6

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## Nehemiah's Rules for Good Relationships

- ◆ Rule #2: Use your opportunity to speak wisely
  - ◆ Say what's on your heart
  - ◆ Respectfully express your wishes
  - ◆ Negotiate an agreement
  - ◆ Renegotiate when necessary

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- ◆ Nehemiah did not put off speaking what was on his heart when he had the opportunity.
- ◆ Nehemiah did not use blame or disrespect when expressing what he wanted.
- ◆ Nehemiah did not bulldoze his way into getting what he wanted without regard for the other person.
- ◆ Nehemiah did not beat himself up for what he should've said differently. Instead, he went back & spoke again.

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## Let's talk about me:

- ◆ I did not put off speaking what was on my heart when I had the opportunity.
- ◆ I did not use blame or disrespect when expressing what I wanted.
- ◆ I did not bulldoze my way into getting what I wanted without regard for the other person.
- ◆ I did not beat myself up for what I should've said differently. Instead, I went back & spoke again.

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Nehemiah's Rules for Good Relationships

- ♦ Rule #3: Know that the world is full of jerks

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Nehemiah's Rules for Good Relationships

- ♦ Rule #3: Know that the world is full of jerks
  - ♦ Come prepared

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Nehemiah 2:9-15

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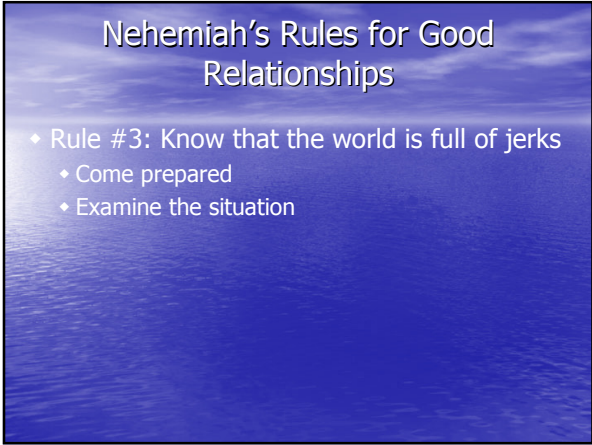
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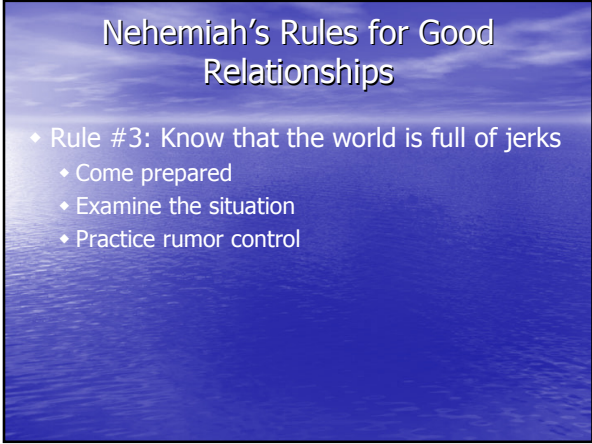
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**Nehemiah's Rules for Good Relationships**

- ◆ Rule #3: Know that the world is full of jerks
  - ◆ Come prepared
  - ◆ Examine the situation
  - ◆ Practice rumor control
  - ◆ Be careful who you hang out with

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**Nehemiah 2:20**

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**Nehemiah's Rules for Good Relationships**

- ◆ Rule #3: Know that the world is full of jerks
  - ◆ Come prepared
  - ◆ Examine the situation
  - ◆ Practice rumor control
  - ◆ Be careful who you hang out with
  - ◆ Cut off the dead weight

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Proverbs 25:28

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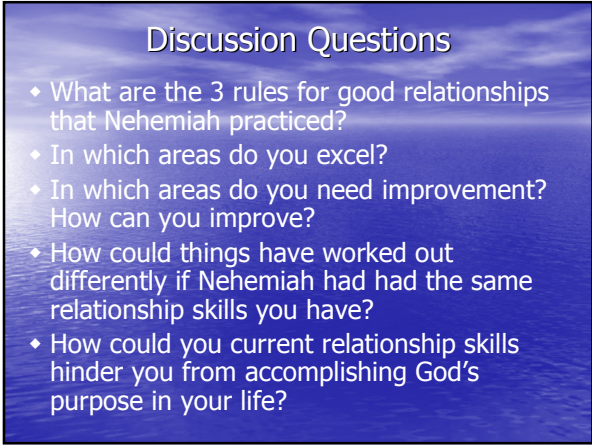
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Discussion Questions

- ♦ What are the 3 rules for good relationships that Nehemiah practiced?
- ♦ In which areas do you excel?
- ♦ In which areas do you need improvement? How can you improve?
- ♦ How could things have worked out differently if Nehemiah had had the same relationship skills you have?
- ♦ How could your current relationship skills hinder you from accomplishing God's purpose in your life?

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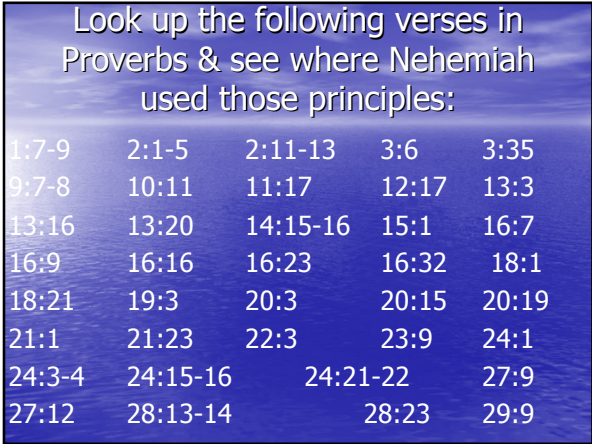
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Look up the following verses in Proverbs & see where Nehemiah used those principles:

1:7-9	2:1-5	2:11-13	3:6	3:35
9:7-8	10:11	11:17	12:17	13:3
13:16	13:20	14:15-16	15:1	16:7
16:9	16:16	16:23	16:32	18:1
18:21	19:3	20:3	20:15	20:19
21:1	21:23	22:3	23:9	24:1
24:3-4	24:15-16	24:21-22		27:9
27:12	28:13-14	28:23		29:9

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