

SERMON SERIES



NEHEMIAH

RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

STUDY GUIDE • NEHEMIAH 9

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THE WORD OF GOD AND PRAYER

THE KEYS TO PERSONAL
AND CORPORATE RENEWAL

NEHEMIAH 9

WELCOME:
Fixing
Our Focus

If you were to make an advertisement about God's faithfulness, how would you go about it?

WORSHIP:
Adoring
Our God

Suggested songs:

- Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
- What a Friend We Have in Jesus
- Take My Life

WORD: Understanding the Word

LESSON AIM

1. Members will commit to spend time studying God's Word and praying daily.
2. Members will praise God for His constant faithfulness.

INTRODUCTION

God continues to rebuild His kingdom. Many years before, the temple was built. Now the walls have been built; the city is now secure. God then started the work of rebuilding the lives of the Jews living in Jerusalem. In the previous chapter, they began spending time hearing and learning from Scriptures. They were obedient to God and celebrated the Feast of Booths as God intended. In this chapter we see the people continue to spend time learning from Scriptures, and we read the congregational prayer of the people as they were led by the Levites. Let's see what we can learn from their prayer.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. What did the people do after they celebrated the Feast of Booths? (vv. 1-2)
2. How long did the people spend listening to the reading of the Law, in confessing their sins, and worshiping God? (v. 3)
3. What are the many different ways the Levites described God, His character, and His works? (vv. 5-6)
4. What is the relationship between God and Abraham? (vv. 7-8)
5. How did God deal with the Israelites when they were enslaved in Egypt? (vv. 9-15)
6. How did the Israelites respond to God's goodness? How did God act towards their response? (vv. 16-21)
7. How did God bless the Israelites as a nation? (vv. 22-25)
8. How did the Israelites act once they have settled in the Promised Land? How did God respond? (vv. 26-31)
9. What did the Levites say to God about their current situation? (vv. 32-37)
10. What did the people do in response? (v. 38)

WORD: Understanding the Word

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. Why do you think the people fasted and confessed their sins after celebrating the Feast of Booths? Read Nehemiah 8:9-12.

When the people heard and understood the Law, they were convicted of their sins and the sins of their fathers. They mourned because of their sins against God. Shortly after, they discovered that they had to celebrate the Feast of Booths. Now that they were done celebrating, they were prepared to pray to God and confess their sins.

2. The Levites led the people in praising God for who He is. What can we learn about God from their descriptions of Him?
3. God chose Abraham to be the father of the Israelites. Is there any reason why he was chosen of all the people on earth?
4. God loved and took care of the Israelites. Yet time and again they rebelled against Him. What does this tell you about man and about God?

The Levites led the people in praying to God. They began by praising God for who He is. He is the one and only God, who created everything: the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them. He alone is worthy of worship. They showed how God was gracious in choosing Abraham to be the father of the Israelites. God did not choose him because of any qualifications he had; it was all by God's grace. God remained faithful to His promises to Abraham and the Israelites, even if they were at times unfaithful to Him. Man has the natural tendency to sin because of the sinful nature inherited from Adam. But God is merciful and gracious, extending steadfast love despite the sins of His people. He chastises them because He loves them.

WORD: Understanding the Word

5. What did the people commit to God after fasting and confessing their sin? What does this tell you about confession?

The people renewed their covenant with God. They acknowledged their sins before the Lord. They mourned for their sins. But it does not end with mourning and confession. Repentance should follow confession. Confession is the admission of wrongdoing, while repentance is turning away from sin and towards God.

WALK: Applying the Word

APPLICATIONS

- CHILDREN -

1. How can you begin reading God's Word today? Ask your parents to help you begin to have a regular time in the Bible if you haven't started already.
2. It is important for all of us to take time to thank God for all He has done for us and our family - what can you do today to thank God for His faithfulness?
3. What does it mean to confess our sins before God? We start by admitting that we did something wrong in the sight of God, like cheating on an exam: *"Lord, I am sorry for cheating on my exam. I admit that was wrong. Please forgive me."* Remember that 1 John 1:9 tells us that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Take time each day to stop and ask the Lord to reveal your sins to you and ask for His forgiveness.

- YOUTH -

1. What are some of the excuses we make to avoid reading God's Word? What can you do to counter those excuses?
2. Factoring in time spent for online learning and leisurely activities, what are some of the things that need to be adjusted in your schedule so you can make a habit of spending time with God?
3. How can you begin practicing keeping track of God's faithfulness in your life? What are ways available to you to record it? Who are the people in your life you can share stories of His faithfulness to?

WALK: Applying the Word

- ADULTS -

1. Reading God's Word brings conviction of sins. Are there any sins that the Holy Spirit has been convicting you of recently? How can we distinguish between conviction from the Holy Spirit and accusations from Satan?
2. How has God shown His faithfulness throughout your life? What ways can you give praise to God for His faithfulness?
3. The Israelites made it a habit to spend half their day in studying Scriptures and in worshiping God. How much time do you spend studying God's Word and praying daily?
4. What are the hindrances you encounter in having a regular study of the Word and time of prayer? Share it with your group.

- COMMUNAL -

1. How is God's faithfulness made manifest in your community? How can we bring a heightened awareness of God in our community?
2. What can you do to remind others in your community of God's faithfulness?
3. How can you work with other believers in your community to share God's Word and the Gospel to others?
4. How can your GCF family (GG) be of help for you to overcome this matter and be able to thrive to grow on these spiritual disciplines?




- GLOBAL -

1. The world is in rebellion against God. We are called to share God's Word to the world so that people may come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. How can churches do so without being judgmental?
2. Are you aware that many still have no Bible in their own language? Pray that God will open doors of opportunities for these people to have His Word.
3. Do you have a definite time/day to pray for family members, friends & unreached people groups who still do not know Jesus in their lives? Discuss your answers.
4. Do you know a missionary, church worker, GCF pastor who might need your prayer right now? Pause and pray for him/her/ them.



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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