

SERMON SERIES



NEHEMIAH

RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

STUDY GUIDE • NEHEMIAH 10

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THE CAUSE AND CORE OF CONSECRATION

NEHEMIAH 10

WELCOME:
Fixing
Our Focus

Share with the group a covenant or promise you had made with God.

WORSHIP:
Adoring
Our God

Suggested songs:

- Speak, O Lord
- Take My Life
- Trust and Obey

WORD: Understanding the Word

LESSON AIM

1. Members will commit their lives in submission to God's will
2. Members will commit to be conformed to the image of Christ, and not of the world.

INTRODUCTION

After the people immersed themselves in Scriptures and in prayer, they were moved to renew their covenant with God and live in accordance with God's commands. Study of God's Word and communication with Him through prayer are not ends in themselves. It should lead to life transformation so that our thoughts, words, and actions are aligned with God's will. God stirred the hearts of the people so that they longed for His Word, spent time with Him in prayer, and sought to obey His commands. Let's look at how God transformed the people so that they recommitted themselves to Him.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. Who were the people whose names appeared on the seals of the covenant? (vv. 1-27)
2. What was the purpose of the covenant? (vv. 28-29)
3. What was their promise to God regarding the peoples surrounding the land? (v. 30)
4. What was their promise regarding the Sabbath and the seventh year? (v. 31)
5. What were their promises regarding the temple and temple worship? (vv. 32-39)

WORD: Understanding the Word

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. What is the significance of the names on the seals of the covenant?

The names found on the seals of the covenant were the names of the leaders of the people. They included Nehemiah, the governor, the priests and Levites, and the chiefs of the people. They represented all of God's people who lived in Jerusalem at that time. Since all of them were represented in those names, it meant that they committed to what was written in it.

2. Read Deuteronomy 27-29. What is the importance of the Jews entering "into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law"?
3. What is the reason why God prohibited the Jews from intermarrying with the people of the land?
4. What is the significance of keeping the Sabbath and the seventh (sabbatical) year?

Before the nation of Israel crossed the Jordan to occupy the Promised Land, Moses had the people make a covenant with God. They vow to obey God's commandments. When they do, God will send His blessings upon them. When they fail to keep God's commandments, God's curses will come upon them. They are God's people, set apart from the rest of the nations. They are not to intermarry with them for doing so will lead them to worship the gods of the people of the land. The practice of the Sabbath and the sabbatical year are unique to the nation of Israel. In observing this, the Israelites are trusting God to provide for their needs even if they do not work (on the Sabbath) or cultivate the land (on the sabbatical year). When they occupied the land, they failed to keep these commandments of God, which resulted in their exile. The Jews, having realized this, yet experiencing the faithfulness and grace of God, now commit to God that they will obey Him.

WORD: Understanding the Word

5. Why is it important for the people to take care of the temple?

The temple is the house of God. It is the place where God's glory and presence dwells on the earth. This is where the Jews worship Him corporately. Therefore, it is important that it is taken care of. This is ensured by God's people when they provide for the temple. When they present their firstfruits and tithes, they ensure that the priests and Levites, who minister in the temple, will be taken care of. Obedience to God and worship of God should go hand in hand.

WALK: Applying the Word

APPLICATIONS

- CHILDREN -

1. What are some things we think we can give up which do not please God? Perhaps we are doing something that is wrong in God's eyes and we need to surrender or bring these to the Lord. (Example 1: staying too long with a game or social media that we are not able to take time to pray or spend time with God and His Word.) (Example 2: We easily get upset and respond unkindly to our parents or siblings or other members of the family.)
2. Write a note to the Lord in your journal and tell God how much you love Him and you want to live for Him and please Him when it comes to managing and using your time wisely, and responding in love and kindness. Write these down and then pray to the Lord that you want to do that and ask Him to help you live for Him.

- YOUTH -

1. What are some of the pressures you are facing right now from the people of the world (in your schools, gaming communities, friend groups, etc.)? How can you commit to not conform to the worldly desires you are being tempted by?
2. Commit to journal everyday for the coming week. Write down things you want to commit to doing this week, things you are tempted by, and how you have been responding to each one.

WALK: Applying the Word

- ADULTS -

1. Do we need to covenant with God the same way the Israelites did? Why or why not?
2. In what ways have you set yourself apart from “the peoples of the land?”
3. How can we apply the principles of the Sabbath and the sabbatical year in our current context?

- COMMUNAL -

1. How can local churches set themselves apart from their surrounding communities?
2. What are sins that Christians, churches and communities of faith need to repent to God for? In what ways can the church today display and live out its repentance from its sins and its commitment to obey God?



- GLOBAL -

1. What modern gods are the peoples of the world worshipping? How can believers avoid “intermarrying” with the peoples of the world so that they are not in danger of turning from God and worshipping these gods?
2. According to recent reports, Christians in countries where the Gospel is prohibited have remained faithful in their commitment to God, in spite of government restriction, persecution and pressure from their neighbors. What can we learn from their example and how can we emulate their zeal and obedience to God? (Read the following articles: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/christianity-china>; <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2020/september/iran-christian-conversions-gamaan-religion-survey.html>)



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