

SERMON SERIES



NEHEMIAH

RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

STUDY GUIDE • NEHEMIAH 13

SERMON SERIES



NEHEMIAH

RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

STUDY GUIDE • NEHEMIAH 13

CONTENTS

WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus 1

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God 1

WORD: Understanding the Word

Lesson Aim 2

Introduction 2

What does the Bible say?..... 2

What does it mean?..... 3

WALK: APPLYING THE WORD

Applications

• Children 5

• Youth 5

• Adults 5

• Communal 6

• Global 6

**THE
DECEPTIVE
DANGER
OF DECLINE**

NEHEMIAH 13

WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:
Share with the group how someone greatly influenced your life. How did their influence affect your life?

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- Heart of Worship
- Our God
- Thy Word

WORD: Understanding the Word

LESSON AIM

1. Members will realize the importance of praying for church leaders.
2. Members will ask God to reveal areas in their lives they need to rededicate to God.
3. Members will commit to read and study the Bible and spend time in prayer daily.

INTRODUCTION

We find an anti-climactic ending in this chapter for the book of Nehemiah. While Nehemiah ruled as governor over Jerusalem, things were doing great. But when he went back to King Artaxerxes, the people experienced a spiritual decline. They were no longer faithfully obeying all that they had covenanted with God to do (see chapter 10). Let's take a look at what happened and how we may prevent the same spiritual decline from happening in our lives.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. What made the people aware of God's standards? (vv. 1-3)
2. Who is Eliashib? Who is Tobiah? What did Eliashib do for Tobiah? (vv. 4-5; cf. 3:1; 4:3; 6:17-18)
3. Where was Nehemiah when this occurred? (vv. 6-7)
4. What did Nehemiah do when he discovered what Eliashib did? (vv. 8-9)
5. What happened to the Levites who were serving in the temple? (v. 10)
6. What did Nehemiah do when he found out what happened to the Levites? (vv. 11-14)
7. What were the people doing during the Sabbath? (vv. 15-16)
8. How did Nehemiah address this? (vv. 17-22)
9. How else had the Jews broken their covenant with God? (vv. 23-24)
10. What did Nehemiah do regarding this? (vv. 25-31)

WORD: Understanding the Word

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. The people read Scriptures and found out that they were not supposed to associate with Ammonites or Moabites. Yet these people were found in their midst and they were unaware of this command from God (see Deuteronomy 23:3-6). Why do you think the people were unaware of this command?

In chapters 8 & 9, we saw how the people had established the habit of listening to Scriptures daily. Because they were consistently hearing and learning God's Word, they knew His commands. The fact that they were no longer aware of God's commands shows that they were no longer consistently practicing this habit.

2. What were the mistakes that the high priest, Eliashib, committed (see Leviticus 21:13-15 and Luke 14:26)? How did this affect the rest of the people? What does this tell us about the importance of leadership?

Eliashib had allowed the priesthood to be desecrated by allowing them to intermarry with foreigners. God had commanded that priests only marry virgins from among the Israelites (see Leviticus 21:13-15). We saw in chapter 6 how Tobiah had influence over the leaders of the Israelites because they had intermarried (with people whom God considered as Israel's enemies). By giving Tobiah a place in the temple, Eliashib had also desecrated the temple. He prioritized his relatives above God instead of prioritizing God above relatives (see Luke 14:26).

This affected the rest of the people. They followed the example of the high priest and started to place other things above God and no longer kept the covenant they made with Him in chapter 10. We see this pattern in the Bible, when God's people are led by a godly leader, the people are obedient to God. But when there is no godly leader above God's people, they turn away from Him.

WORD: Understanding the Word

3. How did Eliashib's actions affect the Levites who were serving at the temple? How does this compare with the people's covenant with God in Nehemiah 10:39?
4. How did Eliashib's actions affect the people's attitude regarding the Sabbath and worshiping God? How does this compare with their covenant with God in Nehemiah 10:31?
5. How did Eliashib's actions affect the people's families? How does this compare with their covenant with God in Nehemiah 10:30?

Eliashib's actions had far-reaching effects. Because there was no room for storing the people's contributions, the people stopped contributing to the temple. The people serving in the temple no longer had daily provisions and were forced to abandon the temple to fend for themselves. The temple became neglected, which was contrary to the people's covenant with God, "We will not neglect the house of our God." It affected their worship of God. Eliashib prioritized his relationship with Tobiah over God. The people also learned to prioritize other things over their worship of God. The Sabbath was no longer being observed. It affected their families. Eliashib and the leaders of the Israelites had intermarried with the families of Tobiah and Sanballat, Israel's enemies. It is no wonder that the people also intermarried with the Ashdodites, Ammonites, and Moabites, who were also enemies of Israel.

WALK: Applying the Word

APPLICATIONS

- CHILDREN -

1. What will you do if you have a friend or classmate who is doing something bad like cheating, teasing or bullying a classmate?
 - a. Pray first and tell it to the teacher.
 - b. Pray first and talk to your classmate who did that bad thing and let your classmate know it's bad.
 - c. Pray for your classmate that God will touch their heart and change your classmate and help your classmate see that it's not good to do that.Explain your answer.

- YOUTH -

1. People of God can never be too young to be leaders in the areas God has called them to. Who are some of the leaders in your groups, especially in the church, you can commit to praying for this week? What are some of the clear opportunities for leadership God is revealing to you?
2. It is important that at an early age, we establish relationships and become part of communities that are anchored in the Word of God. Who are some people in your circles you can invite to read the Bible with you this week?

- ADULTS -

1. We have seen how important leaders are to God's people. How are you intentionally praying for our church leaders?
2. The people were made aware of sin in their life when they read Scriptures. Share with the rest of the group your habit of reading and studying Scriptures and praying to God.
3. Spend some time right now to ask God to search your heart and reveal if there is anything He wants you to change in your life.

WALK: Applying the Word

- COMMUNAL -

1. We have seen how leaders greatly influence those around them. Every believer is a leader in their own way because God has called us to influence others to become His followers. How are you exercising your leadership to the people around you?
2. In what ways can our local church exert positive influence as witnesses of Christ in the world around us?
3. Consider some problems in sustaining our community's faithfulness. What are the root causes and how can we be accountable with one another?




- GLOBAL -

1. Christianity has been beset by leaders who have morally failed. Take time to pray for Christian leaders all over the world, that God would preserve them and they continue to grow in their love and knowledge of God.
2. Let's pray for churches all over the world, that their leaders will make themselves accountable to their congregations, and that people in the congregation will take their leaders to account.
3. The temple was built for the purpose of making a great name for YHWH among the nations and where He is sought. How can we continue to do both, especially during this pandemic?



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

 (02) 8632 1357  Greenhills Christian Fellowship  GCF Main