



The Rebuilt Life

Studies in Nehemiah

Session 8 – Resolve and Dedication | Nehemiah Chapter 10

In our nation's history, Watergate is a reminder of leadership gone wrong. In Nehemiah's day, the public reading of God's Word at the Water Gate sparked a revival that turned the nation around. The people rededicated themselves to live in obedience to God's Law.

Goals for this Session:

- Discover what Nehemiah can teach us about faithfulness and priorities.
- Consider the influence that godly living can have on the world around us.
- Pray honest prayers that embrace obedience and demonstrate a heart to serve.

Ice Breaker

Which best describes your approach to making new-year resolutions? 1) Aim high, stay focused; 2) Good intentions, weak follow-through; 3) Here today, gone tomorrow.

As for Me and My House

Nehemiah 10:1–30

The leaders join Nehemiah in signing a written pledge, outlining the covenant that they made with the Lord. Eighty-four men committed to lead the people by faithfully upholding God's Law.

1. This document was signed by leaders from every aspect of the community. Whether they held a religious position or led in a secular capacity, every man committed to live and lead in obedience to God's Law. While it seems obvious, explain why personal obedience and godly leadership is needed in every facet of life.

Identify one or two people (past or present) who have been a strong and godly influence in your life. In what way?

2. In addition to the leaders, who else takes the oath to live according to God's commands?

a. The people understood the practical implications of this covenant they were making with God. In any society, there is always pressure to conform. Consider what it would involve for them to be *separated* or set apart from the prevailing culture and practices of the people living around them. Briefly explain.

Good to Know

"A curse and an oath." This phrase indicates that the people knew the serious nature of their promise and how their ancestors failed to honor their covenant with God.

Ezra's reading included the blessings and curses that Moses had described (Deuteronomy 28–30) just as Israel prepared to enter the Promised Land.

Curses were not threats—they were warnings. God, who sees the future with complete accuracy, showed them their history in advance. By Nehemiah's time, the terrible consequences of rejecting God's Law had become their heartbreaking history.

b. What does it mean to be *separated* from the world? In actual practice, what does it look like? Consider the following verses and answer in your own words.

Psalms 1:1–3

Romans 12:1–2

1 Peter 1:14–16

c. As a follower of Jesus, when has your commitment to obey God required separation from other individuals, groups or pursuits? In what way?

3. God's Law prohibited His people from blending into the culture, but they were still supposed to be good neighbors. Christians aren't called to isolate—we are called to influence. Use the verses below to describe the impact that godly living can have on the world around us.

Matthew 5:13–16

Colossians 4:5–6

1 Peter 3:15–16

Memory Verse

As you memorize this verse, make it part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.
John 14:15 NKJV

Think About It . . .

After recounting God's loving faithfulness to them (Nehemiah 9) the people confessed areas of neglect and listed specific ways they would obey God. Consider how, and in what way, you can do the same.

Changed Hearts, New Priorities

Nehemiah 10:29–39

When Ezra read the Book of the Law, the people listened and understood. They confessed their sin, individually and as a nation. They were serious about putting God first in every area of life.

1. After an honest examination of their waywardness and God's faithfulness, they said, "Now because of all this we are making an agreement in writing..." (Nehemiah 9:38 NASB). The decision to obey God's Word was not a vague commitment. They focused on three areas of chronic neglect and came up with a specific plan of action.
 - a. Marriage and family (verse 30). This was not about racial differences, it was about being spiritually different. Explain why this was important and how obeying God's will in this area affects the family.
 - b. Work and worship (verse 31). Sabbath was about honoring God in work, in rest, and in all their business interests. Sabbath is more than keeping a specific day; it is keeping God first in everything. What are some ways we can observe the principle of Sabbath?
 - c. Support for the house of God (verses 32–39). The people promised to give as God commanded (firstfruits, tithes) and as specific needs came up; in this case, wood and a yearly portion to support the house of God. Think about it. These are the same people with the same economic conditions we saw in chapter five, but something has changed. From the verses below, do your best to describe the *how* and *why* of giving.

Malachi 3:10

Matthew 6:19–20

2 Corinthians 9:5–12

2. Make it personal. Think through and pray over these areas of your life. Ask the Lord to help you identify your priorities and how you can honor and obey Him.

a. I will honor the Lord in my home/family by:

“Christianity is not a long list of restrictions. It flings open the windows to the real joy of living. The happiest people I know are separated followers of Jesus Christ.”

b. I will honor the Lord in my work/worship by:

“...after men and women come to Christ, they go back into the world to live for Christ as a witness to the world. We are to love those for whom Christ died. We are to pray for them, witness to them, help in all the worthwhile social projects that we can. But we are to achieve that most difficult of all tasks, not to be conformed to the world.”

3. “We will not neglect the house of our God.” This was more than a pledge to take care of the material needs of the temple—in a sense, it was their mission statement. A declaration that they would be God’s people, worshipping and serving together. As a result, they would be a light to the world around them.

Billy Graham
In the World, But Not of It
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Why is it important to be actively involved in fellowship and serving in our church? Consider the following verses and answer in your own words.

Hebrews 10:24–25

Ephesians 4:11–16



Gospel at a Glance: Firstfruits | The principle behind firstfruits was giving God the *first and best* of all that you have to offer. This was a tangible expression of worship that recognized God as the giver of all good things and worthy to receive the very best. Dedication of the firstborn son was also a reminder of the Exodus, when God’s people were spared from death and delivered out of bondage. More significantly, it pointed to the redemption from sin and death that comes through Jesus Christ (see 1 Peter 1:18–21). God did not withhold His very best from us. He willingly gave all. As Jesus said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Adoration **C**onfession **T**hankfulness **S**upplication

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Ephesians 6:18 NIV

God sparked Nehemiah to pray and take action. Others joined in and the work began. With God’s blessing, power and protection, the wall was rebuilt. In each session, we will take time to pray—for others and for ourselves, for our church, our communities, and our nation.

As a focus for prayer, you can use the memory verse, another scripture, or simply what the Lord has impressed on you from the chapter. No need to be profound or elaborate, just authentic.

Record your simple prayer, including each element here.

A _____

C _____

T _____

S _____

Group Prayer Requests

Notes

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