

Study Guide

Nehemiah Chapters 9-11

Big Idea: God gave us the group for our own good.

After “repairing the breach”, Nehemiah and Ezra rebuild the community and it becomes a protection for this remnant nation. Let’s see the specifics on how we can benefit when we lean into community.

1. Read Nehemiah 9:1-2.

“Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. ²And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.”

Discuss the dynamics around fasting, mourning and confessing as a group. What would that look like? Do you think changes would happen in people’s lives? What are the hurdles for us? Discuss the difference between shallow and deep relationships.

2. After recounting the faithfulness of God and the unfaithfulness of God’s people, (v.3-35), they mourn the fact that they had become slaves:

“Behold, we are slaves this day; in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves. ³⁷And its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our livestock as they please, and we are in great distress.” (v.36-37)

What can we learn from the concept that we are vessels and that we will be “ruled over” by what we give ourselves to? (See also Romans 6:16).

3. According to Nehemiah 10, the people entered into a specific agreement:

-No unequally yoked marriages (v.30)

-Keep the Sabbath & Sabbatical (v.31)

-Give first fruits (v. 32-39)

Discuss the concept of making specific agreements to help us stay on track. What could that look like for people desiring change in their lives?

4. According to Nehemiah 11, people were asked to volunteer to live in Jerusalem.

Discuss the idea of inconveniencing ourselves for the sake of the whole and how that can become a benefit to us.

Application

Take a few minutes to pray quietly and ask God to reveal a possible next step for you based on what you discussed. Consider sharing that with someone in your group in the next few days.

Message Slides

Repair the Breach Chapter 1-7

Review slide-

Note: get rid of the quote and only use the ladder with the five points.

stop & pray; be honest with yourself; ask for help; let go of power and control; close the gates.

Restore the Community Chapter 8-13

Last Week: Corporate Worship and Practices are restored

Today: Corporate Confession and Service are restored

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I. Group Confession (9:1-2)

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. ²And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

A. God is Faithful (9:3-35)

v. 5b- "Stand up and bless the Lord your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise."

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"You are the LORD, you alone..."

"You made heaven...earth..."

"You chose Abram"

"You kept your promise"

"You are righteous"
"You saw our affliction"
"You divided the sea"
"You cast their pursuers into the depths"
"You led them "
"You came down on Mt. Sinai"
"You made known to them"
"You gave them bread"
"You told them to go in and possess the land"

CYCLES

"But... our Fathers acted presumptuously...and stiffened their neck, and did not obey..." (16)
"But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them." (17b)
"But after they had rest they did evil again before you..." (28a)
"...many times you delivered them according to your mercies." (28b)

EXILE

"Many years you bore with them and warned them...yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands." (30)

GRACE

"Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God." (31)

B. We are Vessels (9:36-37)

"Behold, we are slaves this day; in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves. ³⁷And its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our livestock as they please, and we are in great distress."

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Romans 6:16

“Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?”

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“Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests.” (38)

C. Specific Agreements Help us (10)

“On the seals are the names of Nehemiah the governor,...”

“enter into an oath...to walk in God’s Law...” (29)

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Agreements:

No unequally yoked marriages

Keep the Sabbath & Sabbatical

Give first fruits

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II. Corporate Service (11)

A. Who is Willing?

“Now the leaders of the people lived in Jerusalem. And the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in Jerusalem the holy city, while nine out of ten remained in the other towns. ²And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem.”

B. Who is Able?

“And in Jerusalem lived certain of the sons of Judah and of the sons of Benjamin.”

(4a)

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“All the sons of Perez who lived in Jerusalem were 468 valiant men.” (6)

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