

The book of



chapter

9

Day 1

1. Read Nehemiah 9 at least twice or listen to it read aloud to you on your YouVersion Bible App. I know this is a long chapter, but it only takes a couple of minutes to listen and read along.

2. Ezra was one of the men God used to lead his people out of their 70 years of Babylonian captivity. When they arrived in Jerusalem, the moral and spiritual condition of the people living there was deplorable. There had been no spiritual influence among the remnant in the land. But as Ezra faithfully taught the people God's Word, they began to respond and rebuild the temple. A few years later, Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and challenged them to rebuild the city walls with God's help. In Nehemiah 8, a crowd gathered to hear Ezra read God's word. This led to a time of true repentance. In Nehemiah 9:1, what three things did the people do which gave evidence to the inward reality of their heart?

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3. The people desired restoration with their God. The first thing we see them do is separate themselves from all foreigners. Why do you believe this was an important step?

4. Read Leviticus 20:23-26; what instructions had God given their ancestors?

Do you believe God desired for them to pass these instructions on to their posterity?

5. God's instructions had not been carefully passed on to their descendants. It is little wonder the Israelites had drifted from their God. Is drifting from God's commands and principles something we see in our country today?

How different might our nation be if our ancestors had each diligently sought and taught God's word?

What are some things we can do to turn hearts back to obedience?

6. Let me compliment you on your desire to know God's word. We cannot share what we do not possess. Read Hebrews 4:12-16, what beautiful invitation is extended to all who profess faith in Christ?

7. Studying God's word has been the greatest influence on my heart. The more I study it, the more I have fallen in love with the author. God's word is the only reliable road map for our life. I love it and I long to share the good news found in it. Yesterday, I purchased two small items off Facebook Market. While I was picking them up, I took a minute to have a brief conversation with each lady at her door. Those conversations gave me an opportunity to tell the ladies about our Bible study and give them one of our WTW cards, inviting them to join us. Both ladies were happy to receive the card and seemed genuinely interested in joining us. I'm no Billy Graham, filling a stadium with hearts hungry for God's word, but I am one lady who has a desire to point people to truth. Try to find one loving thing you can do today to purposefully point others to Jesus. Then share it in your small group.

Read Mark 9:41; it is not the size of the act, but the reason behind what we do. What "cup of cool water" could you hand someone today?

8. The truth is, two people can hear the same words and yet respond in totally different ways. It is the state of the heart that matters. In Matthew 13:18-23 Jesus explains the parable he had just spoken to the crowd. (Matthew 13:3-9) Jesus told a parable describing the various heart conditions that can either hinder or help our relationship with the Lord. Which of these would describe the hearts of the people in Nehemiah 8-9?

- a. A closed heart has no desire to hear the truth.
- b. A shallow heart may listen but easily falls away when problems arise.
- c. A cluttered heart allows the cares of this life to choke out any desire for a real commitment to Christ.
- d. An open heart, one who hears, understands, and applies the truth from God's word.

9. How would you describe your personal relationship with God?

Jesus is my _____.

Day 2

10. In Nehemiah 9:3 we see an important sequence of events. The first thing we see is God's Word being read. What followed?

- a. The Word of God was read aloud for three hours.
- b.
- c.

11. Of the twelve tribes of Israel, the Levites had been set apart by God for his service. Under the direction of Moses, they were assigned the care of God's Tabernacle and the spiritual needs of God's people. Read Numbers 3:5-8, 11-12. Now that the people are back in the land, it is the duty of the Levites to restore proper worship of Jehovah. Look at Nehemiah 9:4-6, what instructions are the people given that day to restore themselves to God?

12. There is a brief history lesson given in Nehemiah 9:6-15. What do you see concerning our God and his relationship with his creation?

To be sure you do not miss anything in these verses, mark the pronoun "You" with a yellow highlighter first, then go back and make a list of all God has done.

13. In the margin of the previous question write one word that describes God's character in each activity mentioned.

14. Nehemiah 9:7 refers to the "LORD God". When the name LORD is written in all capital letters it is the name Jehovah, the Self-Existent One, "I AM", and the Hebrew word translated God is Elohim, the All-Powerful Creator. Is this how you think of God?



In your own words what do these two small names acknowledge about our God when referred to as the LORD God?

15. In what ways has reading and meditating on Nehemiah 9:6-15 encouraged your walk of faith?

16. I never want to miss a chance to look at and discuss the fact that our God is a covenant making and covenant keeping God. Look up the word covenant and define it.

In your own words give a brief explanation of the difference between a covenant and a contract.

17. When we understand God's covenants, we will see this is where true peace can be found. Read Ephesians 2:12-14 NKJV. Then write down what do you learn in these verses about covenant?

18. Back to Nehemiah 9:16-17, highlight in orange, the pronoun "they." Make a list of the response of the Israelites to the LORD God.

19. Make a list of God's character qualities mentioned in Nehemiah 9:17?

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Day 3

20. Read 2 Timothy 2:13; what do we know about our God?

It was true for the Israelites, and it is true for our relationship with God as well.

21. After reading Nehemiah 9:18, even though God had miraculously delivered the Israelites from bondage, they quickly turned their back on him. What did they do? Be specific.

Define blasphemy.

22. This act of rebellion should stand as a warning for us. Just because someone says something is true, that does not make it truth. Read 1 John 4:1, what are we to do with the teachings we hear?

23. This type of testing can be done by careful and prayerful observation. Read Acts 17:10-12. What example did the Bereans set for all believers?

Questions we might ask

Does what is being said line up with the word of God?

Are they living a life consistent with a true follower of Christ?

What are they teaching concerning the deity of Christ?

24. Despite the Israelites rebellion, what attitude of heart did God have for his people? (vss. 19)

25. What visible sign of God's great love did you read about in verses 19-20?



26. Read Genesis 15:5 and Nehemiah 9:23, what promise was fulfilled?

27. Read Genesis 15:7 and Nehemiah 9:22,24-25, what promise was fulfilled?

28. Read Deuteronomy 6:10-12, what is the warning given?

Read Deuteronomy 32:1-9 and Nehemiah 9:26 did the warnings come true?

29. What were the chain of events listed in Nehemiah 9:26?

30. When we choose anything other than complete obedience, aren't we on the same slippery slope as the Israelites, when they turned their backs on God?

Day 4 31. Discipline is the most loving thing that can be done for a rebellious and wandering heart. Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20, had God's people been warned?

32. We all crave peace and rest and a life of ease. Is that type of life really the best for a life dependent on God?

What often happens when we have things too easy too long?

When there are no problems, trials, or needs beyond our control, we can become complacent. What attitude of our heart might that lead us to?



33. Nehemiah 9:27 is a beautiful description of God's love and care. What cycle is seen here?

- a. God's people rebelled.
- b. God _____
- c. The people were oppressed, they _____
- d. God heard the cries of his people and had _____
- e. God _____ his people.

34. Write out the cycle of events seen in Nehemiah 9:28-31.

35. Read Nehemiah 9:31-37. What do you see concerning the character of God?

36. Despite the goodness of God, what was the response of God's people in Nehemiah 9:34-35?

37. What became of the rich blessings of God? (Nehemiah 9:36-37)

38. Have you ever seen this type of thing happen to someone you know and love?

39. What did you do?

40. What are some reasons that it is unwise to allow a seed of sin to continue?

Why is immediate repentance the best policy?

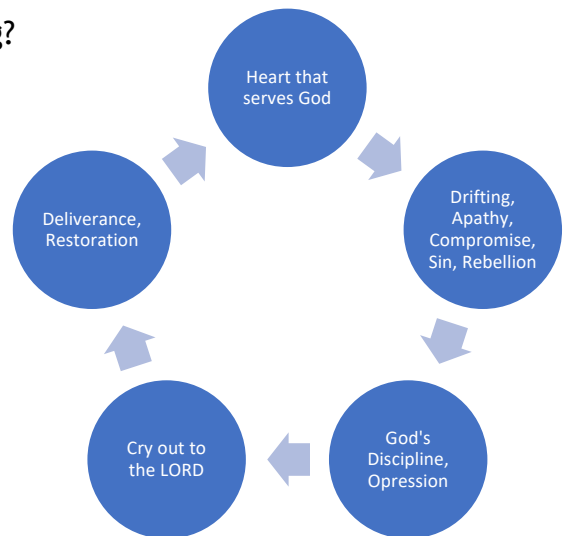
41. Our enemy, Satan is a liar and the great deceiver. What are some of the lies he will tell a man or woman to keep them from repenting?

42. It is not always enough to simply say “I repent.” What did the people do in Nehemiah 9:38 that would serve as a reminder for them and for future generations?

43. Journaling our daily walk of faith can be very encouraging. We can later go back and see God’s hand of correction and God’s hand of blessing. Do you journal? If so, share a notation of correction or blessing from your journal with your small group.

44. This is the common cycle of sin. Look at the diagram below, can you relate to this cycle?

Read Hebrews 2:1, what is the warning?



45. If one desires a life filled with God's favor, doesn't it just make sense to do all we can to avoid that first step of drifting away from God. Drifting is one of those unintentional things we do without really meaning to do it. People find themselves drifting for many reasons. Sometimes we get so busy in one area, that we neglect and drift in another. At times an event causes pain and rather than deal with it, we simply drift. There are probably as many reasons for drifting as there are people on the planet. Sadly, lives are ruined every day by the simple act of drifting. But this disaster can be avoided. What are some ways we can avoid drifting?

46. Read & comment on these verses.

1 Peter 5:8

Mark 14:38

Ephesians 6:10-11

Psalm 1:1-2

Joshua 24:15

47. Guardrails serve an important purpose. They are barriers strategically placed along a highway or bridge to save us from danger. In our walk of faith, what are some personal guardrails we might establish to keep us from drifting off our intended course?

Please do not rush past this question. Strategically placed guardrails may serve you well in the very near future.

48. What are some kind, and loving ways we might help a friend if we see them drifting?

49. After a time of conviction, confession, and restoration, we read that the people wrote up a solemn and binding agreement. This pledge was not to be taken lightly. Scripture tells us the leaders sealed this writing with their personal seals, as representatives of the people. After reading Nehemiah 9:16-17, 26, 29-30, 34-35, what had been the Israelites problem?

50. Why do you believe they felt the need to write this document and seal it with their personal seals?

Biblical References

Day 1

Question 4 - Leviticus 20:23-26

You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them.²⁴ But I said to you, “You will possess their land; I will give it to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey.” I am the LORD your God, who has set you apart from the nations.²⁵ “You must therefore make a distinction between clean and unclean animals and between unclean and clean birds. Do not defile yourselves by any animal or bird or anything that moves along the ground—those that I have set apart as unclean for you.²⁶ You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.

Question 6 - Hebrews 4:12-16

¹²For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints, and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. ¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Question 7 - Mark 9:41

⁴¹Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

Question 8 - Matthew 13:3-9

Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

Matthew 13:18-23

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Day 2

Question 11 - Numbers 3:5-8, 11-12

The LORD said to Moses, ⁶ “Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him. ⁷ They are to perform duties for him and for the whole community at the tent of meeting by doing the work of the tabernacle. ⁸ They are to take care of all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, fulfilling the obligations

of the Israelites by doing the work of the tabernacle.

¹¹ The LORD also said to Moses, ¹² “I have taken the Levites from among the Israelites in place of the first male offspring of every Israelite woman. The Levites are mine,

Question 17 - Ephesians 2:12-14 (NKJV)

¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Day 3

Question 20 - 2 Timothy 2:13

¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

Question 22 - 1 John 4:1

¹ Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Question 23 - Acts 17:10-12

¹⁰ As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. ¹² As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

Question 26 - Genesis 15:5

⁵ He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

Question 27 - Genesis 15:7

⁷ He also said to him, “I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

Question 28 - Deuteronomy 6:10-12

¹⁰ When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, ¹¹ houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, ¹² be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Deuteronomy 32:1-9

¹ Listen, you heavens, and I will speak; hear, you earth, the words of my mouth. ² Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. ³ I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he. ⁵ They are corrupt and not his children; to their shame they are a warped and crooked generation. ⁶ Is this the way you repay the LORD, you foolish and

unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you? ⁷ Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you. ⁸ When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel. ⁹ For the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance.

Day 4

Question 31 - Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸ I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Day 5

Question 44 - Hebrews 2:1

¹We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

Question 46 - 1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Mark 14:38

³⁸ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Ephesians 6:10-11

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Psalms 1:1-2

¹ Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.

Joshua 24:15

¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

