

SESSION 8



NEHEMIAH 9:1-37

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(Questions written by Brad Zook)

READ NEHEMIAH 9:1-37

The renewing work of God in His people continues. In chapter 9, we find a focus on God's Word, confession, and worship (v. 3). This then overflows into a recounting of God's mighty work for His people throughout history, alongside their repeated rebellion. Or to say it another way, here we see God's powerful and gracious activity, and our desperate state of sinfulness. These two things ultimately come together in the cross, where our need (because of sin) is addressed by the gracious work of Christ on our behalf.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the leaders led the people of Jerusalem through this time of confession? Why was it important? What had they done?

2. What message does a leader convey to followers when he or she leads in confession and repentance? What message does a leader convey to their followers when they are never seen confessing and seeking repentance?

3. Verse 3 tells us that they confessed and they worshipped. Why does proper worship flow from confession?

4. What do you imagine is bringing the people of Jerusalem to worship?

5. Look at Nehemiah 9:6-31. Compare the character of humanity and the character of God from these verses. What three words would you use to describe God in these verses? What three words would you use to describe humanity in these verses?

6. Do you see confession practiced as a spiritual discipline in our culture? If not, why do you think it's so neglected?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** Share about the last time you had to do a U-turn in a vehicle. How is a “U-turn” an apt analogy for what repentance looks like?
- 2.** What do we learn from this chapter about what confession and repentance look like?
- 3.** How can we remain faithful to God when we feel defeated in our sin?
- 4.** How does repenting of our sins improve our relationship with God?
- 5.** Reflect on a time in your life when you walked away from God (if applicable for you). Explain why (you think) you chose to do this even though you knew what you were doing was wrong. What were the details surrounding your turning point of repentance?
- 6.** How does biblical truth about the character of God invite repentance?



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