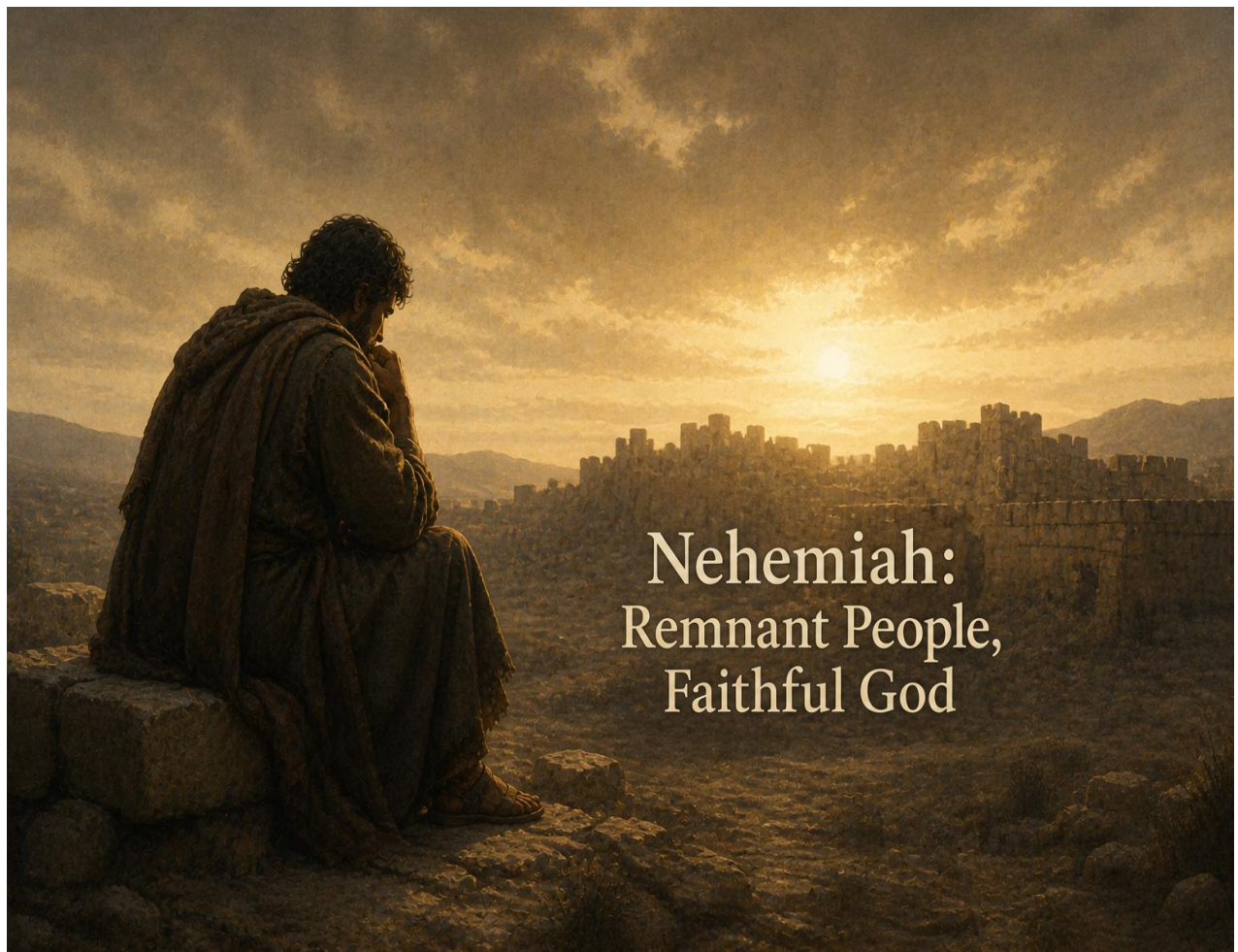




Nehemiah:
Remnant People,
Faithful God

Fall 2026 Study Guide

Nehemiah 1:1-11

Opening: When have you had to ask someone for something you needed— like a ride to the airport, a new job, or wise advice? How did you feel before that conversation, and how did the conversation go?

Asking for something can be a humbling experience. We may fear we are imposing on others or burdening them with our problems. We may feel weak, especially with our Western culture where independence is so highly valued. But often, the help we need comes when we make simple and direct requests. And, when it comes to our relationship with God, He wants us to ask for help in big and bold ways.

The Book of Nehemiah was written at the end of an extended period of exile. Seventy years before the time of Nehemiah, Israel was disobedient to God and was removed from the Promised Land and taken into captivity. But despite his people's actions, God remained faithful and began bringing his people back into the broken city of Jerusalem to restore and rebuild. The story begins with jarring news, prompting Nehemiah to ask for God's help. His bold prayer led to the reconstruction of Jerusalem and God's people. In what ways has sin left our church and its people broken or in need of restoration? In what ways would you want to see God redeem and rebuild our church? What reconciliation or rebuilding could our prayers bring about?

Nehemiah 1:1-4 The Book of Nehemiah starts with a problem: Jerusalem's walls have been broken down, making the already feeble city even more susceptible to attacks from enemies. Upon receiving the news of the city, Nehemiah wept. When the people and places we love are damaged, we, like Nehemiah, should mourn.

Consider how you felt after 9/11, when our nation was attacked. Do you ever mourn over the condition of Crestview or Grace? What do you think it looks like to faithfully mourn our broken situation?

We are God's representatives and our actions, words, and attitudes should reflect him. When God's people are in disarray, the world will not see a clear picture of God's will, Word, and love. How well do you think the church is representing God today? In what ways are we in disarray? In what ways are we representing God well?

Nehemiah's initial response to the news of Jerusalem was to pray. When we don't know how to represent, we need to go back to the one we are representing! In what ways are you praying for the church and for God's will to be done in your community?

Nehemiah 5-7 The first and most important component of Nehemiah's prayer is acknowledging God. We need to be enthralled with the one we represent. What attributes of God captivate you the most? What would it look like to appropriately praise God in prayer before anything else?

After Nehemiah acknowledged God and God's greatness, he humbly confessed sin to God in verses 6-7. When we see God for who he is, we cannot help but see our own sin in comparison. If we are to actively represent God, we need to consistently confess and turn from our sin. What do you think it looks like to repent in front of God and those we have sinned against? In what ways do honest confession and repentance represent God to those who do not know Him?

There are two aspects of Nehemiah's confession: personal sin ("I and my father's family") and corporate sin ("Israelites"). He owns up to what he and his family had done as well as Israel's guilt. This section of Nehemiah's prayer might feel counter-cultural for us today. We feel the need to shift blame to others rather than owning up to our portion of the problem and often reject the need to take responsibility for other people's sin. What difference do you think it would make if we completely owned our personal sin? What difference would it make if we completely confessed and repented of the church's corporate sins and errors?

Since we are God's representatives on earth we should repent of our divisiveness. We've allowed small disagreements in the church to take us off mission. Do you agree with this assessment? In what ways are the divisions in our culture present in the church?

Nehemiah 1:8-11 Nehemiah's acknowledgement of God caused him to have a posture of humility, but it also prompted him to pray with boldness. Nehemiah asked God to remember the promises he made to his people through the Covenant with Moses, which God gave to Israel after He rescued them from slavery in Egypt. Nehemiah could pray boldly to God because he knew God loved His people and desired for them to be restored. In what ways does understanding God's love for you impact the boldness of your prayers?

Nehemiah prayed using passages from the book of Deuteronomy. His boldness before God was rooted in his knowledge of God's Word. When we know who God is, we can rightly approach him and praise him in truth. What verses do you know that describe who God is?

The prayer ends with Nehemiah asking God for success as he prepares to talk to the king about the issue in Jerusalem. Do you believe it is okay to ask God for success in something you are about to do? What are you praying for right now? What can you implement from Nehemiah's example of prayer into your own prayers?

Nehemiah gives us a great example of what it looks like to go to God in prayer in the wake of difficult news and impossible situations. We can approach God boldly and humbly, as Nehemiah did, and know God hears us and will respond. This week, turn to God in prayer. Use Nehemiah's prayer as a template for your conversation with God and take notice of how He answers you.

This Week's Reading Plan: Read Nehemiah 2:1-20 and review next week's lesson

Nehemiah Chapter 2:1-20

Opening: Have you ever been dared to do something but didn't do it?

There are several reasons we wouldn't go through with a dare, but the core reason is that we don't trust something or someone. Life presents us with opportunities to take risks, and if the risks outweigh our trust, we won't go through with them.

In this lesson, we will look at how Nehemiah responded to the risks he faced in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. We will observe how Nehemiah's trust in God's power prompted him to boldly move forward with the assignment God had given him.

Nehemiah 2 emphasizes God's sovereignty and how Nehemiah took the initiative to bring restoration to Jerusalem. We will walk through the chapter to observe how Nehemiah displayed his trust in God through his bold actions. God's sovereignty is God's control and rule over all creation. Is it hard for you to grasp God's sovereignty? What are some ways you notice God's sovereignty at work in your life?

Nehemiah 2:1-5 God's sovereignty is on display because Nehemiah was uniquely positioned to help his people. (Similar to Esther). Has God ever placed you in a strategic position to help others? If so, what were the circumstances?

No matter where God has placed us, we can sometimes fail to acknowledge his power even though we know he is sovereign. While God is uniquely sovereign over everything, why do we sometimes fail to trust him to lead us?

While Nehemiah trembled at the thought of the king harming him or preventing him from the work he felt convicted to do, he still acted. Nehemiah's trust in God's guidance and sovereign power propelled him to take bold steps to accomplish the mission God gave him. Like Nehemiah, our level of trust in God is often revealed through our obedient words, actions, and attitudes. Have you ever had a moment when you pushed past your fear and acted? What motivated you to take initiative even though you were afraid? In what areas of your life might you need to trust in God's sovereignty?

Nehemiah 2:6-10 Even though God was sovereign over Nehemiah's situation, Nehemiah knew he would still face opposition and would need to gather supplies. So, he was proactive. He asked the king for letters to provide safe passage and resources to rebuild the wall. What has it looked like for you to be proactive in your faith? In what ways did God's sovereignty play a role in how and why you acted?

God reigns over our circumstances, but he doesn't make obstacles go away. Instead, he empowers us to face them. How might your faith in God influence your mindset toward obstacles you face? Obstacles our churches face?

Nehemiah not only had a clear direction from God, but he also had confidence that God was with him. Nehemiah says in verses 8 and 18 that "the hand of God was on [him]" to show that God guided him, even in the face of obstacles. Have you ever felt God's guidance amid opposition?

Nehemiah's character, competence, commitment, and courage all helped him leverage his relationship with the king so that he could build the wall. God put Nehemiah in a position to grow in each of those characteristics so that, at the right time, Nehemiah could get everything he needed to rebuild the wall. Have you noticed God using something you learned—maybe while at a job, during a time of difficulty, or through a

relationship—to prepare you for something else later? How did God use what you learned? Out of the four characteristics of Nehemiah (character, competence, commitment, and courage) which one do you think God is calling you to strengthen? **Nehemiah 2:11-15** Nehemiah took responsibility for rebuilding the wall by inspecting the damage, but he also acknowledged that God sovereignly prompted him to do it in verse 12. Nehemiah viewed the mission as a partnership with God. What is helpful about seeing a God-ordained mission as a partnership with God rather than our singular responsibility? In what areas of your life could you remind yourself that you're partnered with God and not doing it all on your own?

Nehemiah 2:16-19 Nehemiah also took the initiative to restore the wall in verse 17 by gathering people to accomplish the mission. He knew the mission God called him to, could not be accomplished by himself. The people responded favorably, and God strengthened their hands for the work. What are the benefits of a group of people joining each other to work on a common mission together? How might you be able to contribute to a group of people in a restoration effort in your community, at work, or at your church?

While a group of Israelites came together for the restoration project, it all started with an individual's pain. God used Nehemiah's grief over Jerusalem's destruction to propel him to restore it. We will all, like Nehemiah, experience suffering. When we do, we can choose to respond in faith. When have you experienced suffering? What was your response to those difficult circumstances? How was your faith impacted?

We see in Nehemiah's story that God is always at work according to his plan. What does it look like for you to trust that God is sovereign when you suffer? In what ways might viewing our pain through the lens of God's sovereignty influence our response to suffering? What sorrow, grief, or trouble are you experiencing now? How could our faith family care for you?

This lesson showed us what a faithful response to God's sovereignty can look like. Nehemiah acted boldly, he trusted God, and he knew God was with him. When we believe God is sovereign, we can respond as Nehemiah did. What could it look like for you to respond to God's call this week? What bold step could God be calling you to take?

At times it may be difficult to trust that God is sovereign. But God is at work even amid our pain and encourages us to bring restoration where others are experiencing brokenness. He is above all things and will strengthen our hands as we join others in the mission he has given us to work on. He can be trusted. He will never fail us, and his faithfulness enables us to be bold even when we experience fear in the face of challenges.

The Week's Reading Plan: Read Nehemiah 3:1-32 and review next week's lesson

Nehemiah 3

Opening: When have you noticed the energy at a large sporting event, concert, or worship service? How did it make you feel?

Large gatherings aren't for everyone, but there is something powerful about a mass of people engaging in the same activity while near one another. In this lesson, we will look at how the whole community of Israelites in Jerusalem came together in unity to rebuild the city walls. This monumental task required each person to participate in the construction project. We'll see how Nehemiah 3 displays the power of unity that God wants all his people to experience. Nehemiah 3 shows us how much God's people can accomplish when they come together and work under a unified purpose. Each person had a valuable role and responsibility to repair the broken wall. Why is everyone's participation essential to our unity as God's people? What does Scripture say about unity among God's people? How does working together impact the sense of community among God's people?

Nehemiah 3:1-5 The chapter starts with the repair of the Sheep Gate. By verse 32, the Israelites had worked their way counterclockwise around the city walls to end where they started—at the Sheep Gate. The author intentionally references the gate twice to show the extent of the damage. The destruction impacted the entire city. What difference does it make in your reading of this chapter to know how extensive the rebuilding effort was?

The author repeats the word “repair” or “rebuilt” throughout the passage to emphasize the unified effort to rebuild the wall. What stands out to you about the unity of the Israelites in this chapter? When have you seen people work in a unified way like Israel? How did their unity impact what they were working on?

Israel gives us an example of what unity as God's people can look like. Coming together as the church is a daunting task today not only because we represent Christ, who is perfect, but also because people have been drawn away from gathering for various reasons. In what ways is it difficult for the church to be unified? What do you think could help us come together?

The key element of unity is leadership. When people need to come together, the leaders set the tone. This passage gives us two contrasting examples of leadership: Eliashib in verse 1 and the nobles of Tekoa in verse 5. One promoted unity, the other division.

Eliashib was Israel's top leader as the high priest, yet his position did not prevent him from getting his hands dirty. He humbled himself and led by example. Eliashib showed his level of commitment to the people by helping with construction. But, according to verse 5, the nobles of Tekoa refused to help. We are not told why they would not help. Because they were affluent leaders, they might have thought the work was beneath them. Undoubtedly, a pompous attitude would have threatened unity among God's people. What leadership characteristics do you admire the most from good leaders in your life? How can you implement what you have learned from them in your interactions with others? How have you seen pride cause divisiveness in a group of people? What are some ways you can prevent pride within yourself from creating division?

Nehemiah 3:7-9, 12 & 21 With the threat of disunity looming among leaders in the community, the people came together and each played their part in the rebuilding project.

There were many different types of people represented in the rebuilding of the wall. Here is a breakdown of some of the diversity represented in the project:

- People from different towns (v. 7)
- Various professions (v. 8)
- Government leaders (v. 9)
- Families (v. 12)
- Faith leaders (v. 21)

The workers' different backgrounds show us that everyone had their own unique skills, but they were unified in the same task of restoring the wall. This passage points to how some instances require us to step in and help whether the task is something we want to do or feel gifted to do. Why do you think we sometimes avoid stepping in and helping? What could it look like to meet needs even if we don't feel like it or don't feel gifted to help?

There are some things we can't do as God's people unless everyone pitches in and helps. What are some areas where we need to lean on one another as God's people? What do we miss out on when we don't work together?

The mission to rebuild the wall provided an opportunity for the unity Israel shared internally as God's people to be experienced externally. When have you felt most unified with other Christians? Why do you think you felt closer to them?

Nehemiah 3:23, 28-30 The work of restoration was vast and required each person to fully participate, so the Israelites repaired the portions of the wall closest to their own homes. Sometimes achieving unity requires us to meet needs right in front of us. What needs do you see in your church, community, or neighborhood that you could meet? How might your faith family seek to meet a need in your church or local community?

God calls his people to be unified. As we saw in this session, a great way to pursue unity is through serving alongside one another. How might serving alongside one another unify your group? In what ways can you help promote unity in your community, church, or home this week?

Nehemiah 3 gives us a hopeful picture of what can happen when we come together. Our unity can sometimes be challenged by our pride, lack of willingness to serve, or by not knowing how we can contribute. But we know God has already unified us through Jesus, and he provides opportunities for us as the church to rally around meeting needs and serving together. We can experience unity as God's people—but we must be willing to do our part. This week, consider the unity—or lack of unity—in our church. How could you help promote unity? Pray for unity and see what God has in store for you!

This Week's Reading Plan: Read Nehemiah 4:1-23 and review next week's lesson

Nehemiah 4:1-23

Opening: What's something you've had to endure (a complicated work project, a long wait time, a family reunion, etc.)? What helped you keep going?

Whether we're at the back of a line or waiting for a promotion, we often aren't where we want to be. In those instances, we need endurance—a characteristic that's hard to come by in our fast-paced world. If we face opposition and resistance, we're encouraged by our culture to take the easier route. But God often calls us to keep going. Nehemiah 4 provides us with raw imagery of the difficulty the Israelites faced in rebuilding Jerusalem's wall. Despite opposition, God's people endured with a shovel in one hand and a sword in the other. So, what does it look like to push through opposition as we seek to follow God whole heartedly?

Nehemiah 4:1-3 As the Israelites began to make progress on the wall, Tobiah and Sanballat opposed them by mocking them and later plotting against them. We might not face the same kinds of adversaries as the Israelites, but we can experience opposition to following God in many ways, including opposition within ourselves. We should expect opposition to God's kingdom, yet many of us are surprised by opposition. Why do you think many of us are caught off-guard when we face opposition? In what ways have you faced opposition as you've followed God and his commands?

On the surface, Sanballat and Tobiah's antagonism toward Israel seems personal. However, much of the resistance God's people face originates from an unseen spiritual enemy, Satan. Even if we're opposed by people, we know there's often a spiritual foundation behind them. We need situational awareness to notice spiritual opposition in our lives, especially when we are seeing growth in our faith. We need to observe what's going on in us and around us so we can be in tune with the spiritual reality behind our circumstances. In what ways is it difficult to grasp that surface-level issues often have a spiritual foundation to them? How might viewing your obstacles as spiritual change the way you respond to them?

Nehemiah 4:4-5 Being aware of opposition is helpful, but we also need to know how to combat it. The first thing Nehemiah did in the face of opposition was talk to God. How do you typically respond to a difficult situation? What does it look like for you to go to God in prayer in tough circumstances?

Nehemiah 4:6-9 The essence of the chapter is found in verse 6: Despite opposition, the people persevered to rebuild the wall. Facing opposition is always difficult, but our faith in God propels us forward through it. Our growing faith helps us face even greater opposition, which is what the Israelites faced in verses 7-8 as their enemies plotted to fight them. The Israelites responded by praying to God and stationing a guard. Their faith and actions went hand-in-hand. How has your faith in God helped you persevere through a tough situation?

The Israelites could have just prayed and not stationed a guard, which would have risked the progress they made. Instead, they thought practically and strategically and acted. What does it look like to discern when we need to strategically act on our faith? How might God be prompting you to act strategically in your life?

As the enemies of Israel threatened those rebuilding the wall, the Israelites became disheartened. Nehemiah told the people to not be afraid of their enemies because of the greatness of their God who was with them. Nehemiah called them to place their trust in God. What makes God trustworthy? What does it look like to trust him, especially in difficult times?

Nehemiah 4:15-23 The Israelites worked on the restoration of the wall while arming themselves to defend their people if necessary. Their actions were practical, but they were motivated by their belief in God. What do your actions at work, at home, and in your community reveal about your faith?

Verse 16 tells us that half the people worked on the wall while the other half stood guard with weapons. By working together, they helped each other rebuild the wall and stay safe from their enemies. In what ways do you value others' support when you are facing a challenging season? How might you support a fellow believer who's facing difficulty?

In verses 19-20, the Israelites were reliant on God to defend them against their enemies—they had to trust him. When we face difficult situations, we too can trust that God defends us and fights for us. How does knowing that God is with you affect the way you respond to opposition?

This chapter reminds us that when opposition comes our way, we can exercise our faith in God by taking practical steps forward. Faith and action work hand-in-hand to help us endure difficulty. In what ways are you experiencing opposition or difficulty right now? How might you trust God by taking action this week?

As God's people, we will face opposition. We might experience resistance on a surface level, but we know it originates in the spiritual realm as the enemy seeks to discourage progress of God's kingdom in and through our lives. To withstand attacks from the enemy, we must cling to a deeply rooted faith in God and move forward with practical action. Remember, God actively fights for us. Therefore, we can move forward through opposition with hopefulness because our God is with us. This next week, consider how you can endure opposition by expressing your faith through prayer and practical action.

This Week's Reading Plan: Read Nehemiah 5:1-19 and review next week's lesson

Nehemiah 5

Opening: If you had a superpower that was solely intended to help others, what would it be and who would you help?

In stories, heroes use their superpowers to help others and influence the world around them. In fact, any kind of power can either help or hurt people. Even though we don't have super strength or invisibility, we have all been given power to exercise influence at work, at home, or with our family and friends.

In Nehemiah 5, we encounter a situation in the Israelite community where those in power were hurting their fellow Israelites. Nehemiah responded to the injustice by bravely confronting the leaders and being an example of selfless leadership. What injustices did Israel face, and how did Nehemiah bring about justice? What kinds of injustices do we see in our culture today? How should the church respond to injustice?

Nehemiah 5:1-5 Many of the Israelites at the time of Nehemiah worked in agriculture. But since their attention was on building the wall, they could not generate income for themselves. Some of their fellow Jews who were more financially stable exploited those with financial weaknesses for personal gain. People in power were utilizing their privilege to oppress people. Why do you think some people view their power or privilege as an opportunity for personal gain rather than for someone else's gain?

The Jews were being taken advantage of by their own people, and God hates when anyone is mistreated. Injustice shouldn't characterize the people of God, but, unfortunately, it often does. There is a connection between justice and God's character and our role as his image bearers. To be God's people is to be those who both desire and bring about justice. In what ways do people take advantage of or behave unjustly towards others today? How has the church been involved in injustice? What does it mean to you that God is just? How can we imitate his justice as his people?

Nehemiah 5:6-10 In verse 5, the people said they were powerless because what they owned had been taken away from them. Who do you think may feel powerless in our community?

Verse 6 tells us that Nehemiah became inflamed with anger because his own people were being oppressed. Fueled by his righteous anger, Nehemiah boldly confronted the officials and nobles for exploiting the Israelites. Just as Nehemiah was for Israel, the church needs to be a prophetic voice for injustice issues in our world, not a "pathetic" one. In what ways have you seen the church stand up for those who are oppressed? How can the church continue to speak up against oppression in our culture?

Nehemiah 5:11-13 Nehemiah told those in power to give back the land and all the money and resources they took from their fellow Jews. The people in power agreed, swore a public oath, and verse 13 tells us that they did as they promised. While their repentance was costly, they followed through on their word, and the oppression ended. Their response shows us that for justice to be accomplished, words and actions must be aligned. Why do you think our actions sometimes don't match our words in seeking out justice? In what ways can we seek out justice with our words and actions?

Nehemiah 5:14-19 In verse 14, we see that Nehemiah was given power by the king of Persia to govern the Israelites. While we may not be government officials, we all have a sphere of influence we are responsible for. Our sphere of influence may be at home, at work, in a faith community, or with the family and friends God has entrusted to us. What's your sphere of influence? How might viewing your sphere of influence as entrusted to you by God affect the way you operate in it?

In verse 15, we see Nehemiah's reasoning for not taking what was entitled to him. Nehemiah's respect for God led him to honor others. How might our perception of God affect the way we treat others?

The fundamental reason for the injustices in our world is that we do not view everyone as created in God's image. Each person, no matter their skin color, gender, age, economic background, or any other distinction, is made by God, reflects him, and is valued by him. Therefore, every person deserves to be treated with dignity. In what ways do you treat others differently because you view them as created in God's image? What might change in our community if everyone treated each other with dignity as God's image-bearers?

Because Nehemiah feared God and saw his fellow Jews as equals, he did not take the resources he had a rightful claim to as the governors did before him. Instead, he brought relief to the people by denying his own rights as governor. To gain the trust of people who have been oppressed, we must be willing to make sacrifices for them. How might making sacrifices for others who have suffered help build their trust? What kinds of sacrifices might need to be made to help those who are oppressed in our world?

Each culture has an underlying system of values that are expressed in rights for people. Sometimes the rights our culture prizes are in line with God's Word, but sometimes they are not. Nehemiah's actions encourage us to lay down our rights and make sacrifices so we can help bring justice to others. When we put ourselves in a posture of learning and giving, we can help others thrive. What are some rights your culture holds tightly to? In what ways might an overemphasis on our rights prevent us from acting justly toward others? What sacrifice can you make that could help someone around you thrive?

As God's people, we are to represent him by being a beacon of light to the world. Every person has been created in the image of God, and we honor God when we treat others with dignity, especially when they are oppressed. Regardless of the culture we live in, there will always be oppressed people around us—perhaps we have experienced oppression ourselves. God has equipped us to be a blessing to others and boldly address the injustices around us by exchanging entitlement for service. Our sacrifices will help bring freedom to those under oppression. As we seek justice inside and outside the body of Christ, we bring light to darkness and reveal God's heart to the world.

This Week's Reading Plan: Read Nehemiah 6:1-19 and review next week's lesson

Nehemiah 6

Opening: What's one thing you can always be distracted by? Why do you think it distracts you?

Whether we like to admit it or not, we all can be distracted at times. Distractions can be self-imposed, or they can come from something as simple as a text, a viral video, or a chatty friend. Though often harmless, serious distractions can prevent us from doing what we are called to do.

In chapter 6 of Nehemiah's story, Nehemiah's enemies try to distract him from his God-given task to rebuild the wall. We will see how Nehemiah was able to push past opposition to restore the wall for God's people. How does the enemy use emotions to distract us? What role does truth play in navigating our emotions?

Nehemiah 6:1-4 By this point in the story, the wall has nearly been completed. Israel's enemies have grown increasingly concerned that the Israelites will establish a stronghold in the area, so they've hatched a plan to distract them. Sanballat and Geshem saw that the wall was nearly finished and tried to distract Nehemiah from his work by calling for a meeting with him outside the city. How did Nehemiah respond to them in verses 3-4? What do these verses reveal about Nehemiah's focus?

Nehemiah recognized what his enemies were trying to do and, as we see in verse 3, chose to prioritize the work on the wall instead of letting his enemies distract him. While we aren't rebuilding a wall like Nehemiah was, we all have God-given work—to become like him in our attitudes and actions, to obey him in every area of our lives, and to glorify him in our vocations. Why do you think we sometimes don't prioritize God's work in our lives? What does it look like for you to prioritize God's work in and through your life above any distractions? What do you believe is the work God has for our churches? What distractions might be keeping us from completing this work?

Nehemiah 6:5-9 Sanballat spread false rumors about Nehemiah, saying Nehemiah wanted to establish himself as the king in Israel. This rumor could have been detrimental to making progress on the wall. Nehemiah gave his response to the rumors in verses 8-9. What stands out to you about Nehemiah's response?

Though the rumor could have threatened his life, Nehemiah focused on the truth instead of allowing his emotions to inform his response. Rumors and lies can damage us emotionally and distract us from what God wants to accomplish in us. We need to speak truth to our emotions because while they may be real, they don't always point to the truth. What makes emotions sometimes unreliable sources of truth? How might you allow truth to dictate your response in highly emotional situations?

In verse 9, Nehemiah recognized that the enemy's ploys were meant to intimidate him. The Hebrew word for "intimidate" is littered throughout the passage in verses 9, 13, 14, and 19 and reveals that intimidation was the enemy's strategy to stop work on the wall. In what ways can intimidation be an effective distraction from God's work?

Instead of giving in to the enemy's intimidation, Nehemiah prayed and asked God to strengthen him. Nehemiah consistently went before the Lord when he faced opposition to his work. God wants us to go to him, especially when we experience strong emotions. When have you turned to God in prayer in a difficult situation? How did praying about your problem affect you?

In verse 9 and later in 14, Nehemiah prayed when he was threatened by his enemies. Prayer is not the dictation of our will to God, but our alignment with his will. Prayer helps us align ourselves with God instead of focusing on our emotions. In what ways has prayer helped you shift your focus from your emotions to what God desires for you?

Nehemiah 6:10-14 As a prophet, Shemaiah should have been a good source of truth, but Tobiah and Sanballat paid him to deceive Nehemiah. According to God's Law, only priests were allowed to enter the inner most parts of the temple where God's holy presence dwelled. If Nehemiah went in, he could have sinned by desecrating the temple or even died from being in God's holy presence. Since Nehemiah knew the Law, he was not deceived by Shemaiah's deceptive warning. Shemaiah's deception can remind us that we need to filter what we hear from people, media outlets, or the internet—even those we trust—through the truth of God's Word. When we know the truth in God's Word, as Nehemiah did, we won't be easily deceived. How well would you say you know the Bible? In what ways can you use Scripture to help you discern the truth?

Nehemiah 6:15-19 Despite the extent of the damage and opposition, the work on the wall was completed in fifty-two days, showing God's sovereign and capable hand over the reconstruction. Nehemiah's enemies were trying to intimidate him, but in the end the miraculous completion of the wall intimidated them. The completion of the wall shows us what God can do through people who refuse to allow distractions and opposition to get in the way of his work. What do you think God wants to accomplish through our churches? What distractions or opposition do we face? What would it take for us to persevere?

As we pursue the Lord's work in and through our lives, we will undoubtedly encounter opposition. We may not face the same distractions Nehemiah had in rebuilding the wall, but we will face them in various forms. The enemy may try to discourage us through fear, lead us astray with ill-advised guidance, or distract us with our own ambitions. However, we can remain faithful to God by following Nehemiah's example of focusing on truth through prayer and engaging God's Word. When distractions come your way, stay focused on God's truth, and God will fulfill his work in and through you. What could it look like to persevere this week by utilizing prayer and God's Word to focus on God?

This Week's Reading Plan: Read Nehemiah 7:1-73 & Nehemiah 8:1-18 and review next week's lesson

Nehemiah 7 & 8

Opening: Describe a time you experienced joy when you were surrounded by other people (family gathering, a church service, or another event). What made it joyful?

We can experience joy alone but being with others causes our happiness to multiply. Parties become more vibrant, mutual experiences more memorable, and worship more powerful. God has called us unto community so that, as we gather, we can experience the joy of knowing him.

In Nehemiah 7-8, we see God's people gather to hear from God through Scripture. After they hear the Scriptures read aloud—some of them for the first time—they collectively celebrate, rejoicing in learning more about God and his ways. We can experience that same joy today when we give our attention to God's Word.

By the end of Nehemiah 7, the wall of Jerusalem had been rebuilt, and the people were settling in their homes. For the first time in a long time, there was peace in God's city. But the wall was just a tool—the people needed something more, something greater, to establish their relationship with God.

Nehemiah 7:73-8:3 The completed wall provided God's people an opportunity to live in peace and be a light to surrounding nations. But the wall was not their source of peace and light—only God could truly protect and provide for them. When our lives are going well, we may not feel like we need God—at least not as strongly as we do in times of suffering. But despite how we feel, we always need God. What tools or blessings are we tempted to trust for peace and provision instead of God? What could we do to remind ourselves of our constant need for God's guidance, provision, and protection?

Nehemiah 8:1-8 The people ask Ezra to bring the Word of God to them. The crowd desired to hear the Torah spoken over them. In what ways do you think our churches would be different today if the people longed to hear God's Word? In what ways is your life different when you desire to hear God's Word?

Ezra spends from sunrise to noon, reading the books of the Law (Genesis through Deuteronomy) out loud. As he reads, the people attentively listened so that they could learn about God and his requirements for them. This can be hard to imagine with our shortened attention spans and busy lives. For some of us, it can be difficult to listen to a full sermon without feeling a desire to look at our phones. Even so, it is worthwhile to discipline ourselves to pay attention to the public reading and teach of the Bible. What could you do to minimize distractions so that you might be more attentive to what God wants to teach you in his Word?

Nehemiah 8:9-12 Worship isn't just when you lift your hands in worship. We are also called to honor God through our attitudes and actions while participating in worship services. It is possible to sing worship songs or even feel encouraged by a Sunday service without a posture of reverence toward God. What do you hope to get out of worship services? What attitude, engagement, and posture do you try to give to God during worship?

When people heard the Law, they were overwhelmed with sorrow. The Law describes sin in detail and God's requirements for his people. Those listening to Ezra, who understood all that was being read to them, clearly saw their sin and failure to live up to God's standard. In what ways was the sorrow of the Israelites the correct response to their sin? What should our response be toward our sin when we recognize it?

Ezra and the Levites instructed the people to not grieve because "the joy of the Lord is your strength." Their conviction under the Law was meant to drive them to God. As with Israel, we also do not have the strength to save ourselves. Conviction should always push us toward our loving God. How do you typically respond to conviction?

The joy of God welcoming his people despite their sinfulness led the people of Jerusalem to break out in celebration. God has also made a way for us to be his people. Because of what Jesus has done, we can be forgiven and welcomed into a relationship with God. That is good news worth celebrating. Is celebration a part of your regular worship? What would it look like for you and your community to celebrate the salvation we have in Jesus together?

Nehemiah 8:13-18 After the public reading of the scripture, the people committed themselves to understanding and obeying the Law. They discovered a festival the Law commanded them to celebrate called Succoth or the Festival of Booths. When we think of God's Law, we tend to think of a list of boring rules to follow. But God's Law leads us into full, abundant life, which includes feasts and celebrations. In what ways does the Law's inclusion of festivals change the way you think about obedience to God?

In verse 17, we see that obedience brought Israel tremendous joy. We don't always connect obedience with joy, but God will give us joy when we follow him. The joy Israel experienced began when they gathered to hear the Scriptures. Like Israel, the joy of our relationship with God starts with our desire to hear from him. His word teaches us who he is and the right way to live, and it leads us into joy. What would it look like for you and your community to give more attention to reading, understanding, and obeying the Bible together?

When we investigate God's Word, we find the path to tremendous joy. And when we obey God's Word, we find a life of communal celebration and peace. It will take focus and discipline for us to commit ourselves to the Scriptures. But every ounce of effort we give to knowing and obeying God will be worth the joy of knowing him.

This Week's Reading Plan: Read Nehemiah 9:1-38 and review next week's lesson

Nehemiah 9

Opening: Remember a time when you fixed something that was broken. What effort or resources did you have to spend to fix the damage?

When something is broken, we often think of replacing it. Rolling up our sleeves to repair something takes time, energy, and often money. But the effort of repairing our belongings or something in our community can be deeply satisfying.

In this lesson, we will learn about the practices of confession and repentance. Repairing the damage of sin is not easy, but it is eternally significant. What does repentance look like? How does redemptive history inform our relationship with God and others? Why do we need to communally repent?

When the Israelites heard the Word of God in Nehemiah 8, they responded with remorse because they realized they were not following God's commands. But the Levites told them not to mourn when they celebrated the Feast of Booths. Now that the festival had ended, the Israelites had to confront their sin, which caused them both sorrow and repentance.

Nehemiah 9:1-3 For Israel to move forward in their relationship with God, they had to deal with their past. To mourn their sin, the Israelites covered their heads in dust, wore sackcloth, and fasted. Even though we have full forgiveness in Christ, like Israel, we should mourn our sin and the effect it has had on our lives and the lives of those around us. What do you think it looks like to mourn sin today?

Lament is acknowledging what has happened to and through you. But lament is not a simple task to be checked off our to-do list. It takes time to grieve the effects of sin. Why do you think we tend to rush past mourning our sin?

In verse 2, the Israelites confessed both their sin and the sins of their ancestors. The idea of communal repentance is often foreign to us— we would rather point to specific people who have sinned rather than accepting that we, as a community, have sinned. Why do you think we would rather take individual responsibility for sin than accept communal responsibility? When do you think it is appropriate to communally mourn and repent sin?

Nehemiah 9:4-6 God is the subject of every sentence in verses 6-15. The Israelites stood to confess and repent of their sin. But their confession began in an unusual way. Israel began to mourn by praising God. We may not think of praise as a proper confession, but to truly confess, we must know who God is and approach him rightly. In what ways could praising God affect the way we confess our sin?

Repentance is not just an agreement with God about our sin but an act of turning away from sin and embracing the life God calls us into. Think about when someone has apologized to you. It is one thing for them to say they are sorry, but something altogether different for them to change their behavior. What are some ways we can help one another turn from our sin to ward God's ways?

Nehemiah 9:7-31 Israel's confession continued by retelling their redemptive history. Their prayer walks through the repeated faithlessness of their ancestors and the ongoing faithfulness of God. When they recognized God's consistent faithfulness, they could be confident in their future with him. Verse 28 says, "When they cried out to you again, you heard from heaven and rescued them many times in your compassion." God cared for Israel, despite their rebellion—and he does the same for us. In what ways has God been faithful to you when you have gone astray?

Israel was not just mourning the effect their sin had on others, but the effect their sin had on their relationship with God. In what ways can the sins we've not repented of affect our relationship with God?

When we consider our own track record, our lives are not so different from Israel's. We fail God every day. But we also see God's love through his faithfulness to us. Even when his people acted like his enemies, he loved them as his children. How could we remind ourselves of God's unending faithfulness when we think about our past sin?

Nehemiah 9:32-37 The confession concludes with the Israelites reflecting on their current situation. Israel knew they needed God's help to fix their current situation. Sin damages our relationships and ruins families, neighborhoods, and cities. Only God can fix our personal and communal problems. What personal problems do you need God's help with? What communal problems do we need God's help with?

Though Israel was already in a covenant relationship with God, they needed to rededicate themselves to their covenant. We, as the church, also need to rededicate ourselves to God, reminding ourselves of our covenant with him and our purpose in him. Is God leading you or our church to repent of anything in particular? If so, what is the next step of rededication (mourning, confession, and repentance) you need to take?

Despite our consistent failures, God is faithful to his people. We, individually and corporately, are prone to wander from him. We need his conviction and to be struck by the sorrow of our sin. But we do not need to stay in sorrow. When we come together and rededicate ourselves to Jesus, we can begin to heal and repair the damage sin has done. Our sin will cloud the world's image of God. If we want to redeem our communities, live as witnesses to God's goodness, and fulfill his purposes for our lives, we will need to start with repentance.

This Week's Reading Plan: Nehemiah 10:1-39 and review next week's lesson

Nehemiah 10

Opening: What are some of your bucket-list dreams or goals? What are you currently doing to reach those goals?

Many of us have big aspirations for our lives, but we can only get to our desired future by working toward it. God also has a purpose for our lives. But if we are not wholly committed to him and his ways, we will be unable to go where he wants to take us. In this lesson, we will look at the importance of communal dedication to God and the goodness our commitment to God can bring into the world. In Nehemiah 10-12, we will continue to see Israel's spiritual renewal. God has been faithful to Israel through their sin and exile. Now God asks Israel to commit to being faithful to him. In chapter 10, the leaders of Israel gather to make a formal commitment to God. Why do we, as a community, need to dedicate ourselves to God?

Nehemiah 10:28-39 We often think of formal agreements as something for individuals, only binding for those who sign them. But here, the entire people enter into a formal agreement with God. Do you feel like your commitment to God is more individual or communal? What could be the benefit of committing to God as a community?

The church is more effective as a community than it is as a disconnected group of individuals. We need one another for support, encouragement, correction, and wisdom. We need all of us to work together to be effective in our community. In what ways can the work of the church be damaged if we think of our commitment to God as only individual?

Verse 28 says the Israelites separated themselves from the surrounding cultures that did not commit to obeying God. In what ways do you see the church being swayed by cultural influences? How might outside influences that do not honor God be impacting your faith? What would it take for us to go to God for answers before anywhere else?

There is a common misunderstanding within the church. While we are called to be insulated from our culture, we were never meant to be isolated from the world. What does it mean to be insulated from the world? How can we balance the tension of being uninfluenced by the world while being involved with those who do not know Jesus?

We are all influenced by the media we consume and the people around us. Part of being insulated from the culture is knowing how and by what we're being influenced. What media or people have the most influence in your life and the way you see the world? What could you do to evaluate what you watch and hear using a biblical worldview?

In verses 32-39, the Israelites commit their resources to worship in the house of God. The Mosaic Law mandated setting aside a certain amount of money or goods to contribute to the temple for the proper animal sacrifices to be made and to help support the priests who led the people in worship. Our worship looks different today, but we are still called to commit to holiness by sacrificing our time and material items to contribute to the worship of our God. What does it look like for you to honor God by setting aside resources to help contribute to worship and ministry? How does generosity enable you to worship God more fully?

This Week's Reading Plan: Read Nehemiah 11:1-36 and review next week's lesson

Nehemiah 11

Opening: What specific opportunities has God given you to serve him?

The principle that leaders should take the first step may seem a bit redundant. After all, a leader should lead. Some leaders, however, send their people first to try something when it is risky or likely to fail. We see a different story unfold in Nehemiah. The walls have been built, and the city was being restored. Unfortunately, the population of the city was too sparse. There weren't enough people to protect the city or create thriving businesses.

Nehemiah 11:1-2 There are two quick things to notice about these verses. First, the leaders led the charge in moving into the city. Second, the people didn't really want to live in the city. In fact, they had to cast lots to determine who got the short straw and had to move. Isn't it strange that people would be hesitant to move into Jerusalem? This was their capital, their center of pride and accomplishment before exile. Scripture doesn't explicitly give a reason for their hesitancy to move, but when we've witnessed natural disasters in our own country, we begin to see a similar pattern. As broken buildings are cleared and infrastructure is repaired, there often isn't an immediate flood of business back into the business district. People are often timid to return.

Ninety percent of Israel did not live within the walls of Jerusalem. God providentially placed his people throughout Israel, among those who did not know him. We may not think of our placement as part of God's greater mission, but your neighborhood and workplace are providential placements. Your sphere of influence is where God wants you to shine for him. Where has God placed you? Who in your neighborhood and workplace could you influence to know God? How might you be intentional about sharing God's love with them?

Since Tobias and Sanballat kept threatening to send their armies and destroy the city, most preferred to keep a low profile in their local village. Others knew the city was nearly empty, how could they build a successful business there? But the leaders of Jerusalem knew that in order for Jerusalem to have an identity and fulfill its calling from God, someone needed to live inside the walls. Despite the risks to their safety and livelihood, they took the first steps and moved into the city before anyone else. Once there, they called people to follow. Some came willingly, others came when commanded, but the city filled again with life. How is this like the current condition of our church? What steps of faith might God be calling you individually to take to increase his kingdom? What steps of faith might God be calling our church to take to increase his kingdom?

It is important to know that when we seek to try something new, there is a chance for failure. We must allow for failure as we try new ministries, new ventures, new evangelism. We need to recognize them as opportunities to learn, grow, and try something even better the next time. What would it look like if you knew failure was, ok? Would you be more willing to take a step of faith into what God is calling you to? How can we develop an environment at church where we are willing to try, possibly fail, and then keep trying?

Nehemiah 11:3-36 Why do you suppose Nehemiah records so many names in his account of those returning to settle in Jerusalem? The names remind the workers they are part of one special family of purpose. Perhaps most importantly, the names remind us that these were real people with real stories who made a real difference.

If we were to list all the difference makers who helped build Crestview and Grace, the list would be long. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people have served and sacrificed to reach people for God. Where would your name be on the list of those who have faithfully served at and through your church? What are you most proud of when you think about how you have served God?

Every member at Crestview and Grace has a name, every name has a story, and every story matters to God. God really does care about the people we are trying to reach. But God also cares about the people already here. God hasn't forgotten you. God is with us in the late nights and the early mornings, the long phone calls, and the prayers spoken through tears. He knows and cares about our personal circumstances. How does it impact you to know how intimately God knows and loves you? Who in your life needs to hear that God knows and loves them? Make a list and begin praying for them.

This Week's Reading Plan: Read Nehemiah 12:1-47 and review next week's lesson

Nehemiah 12

Despite having scattered throughout the land, the people gathered back in Jerusalem to celebrate the work God had done.

Nehemiah 12:27-43 The Israelites gathered to worship and celebrate what God had done among them. In the same way, we regularly gather as the church to remind ourselves of God's Word, worship, and celebrate what God has done among us. However, some of us see Sunday worship as a to-do list item rather than a celebration. How might seeing worship as a celebration of God's communal work change the way you view Sunday services? How might it change the way you worship during Sunday services?

God calls all of us to be a light for him in our culture. But that work begins with us dedicating ourselves to God's Word and ways. God has called his people to be a light to the world through a lifestyle of holiness, service, and celebration. Imagine what our world would look like if our lifestyles of celebrating what God has done for us would be evident to those who are "far off." What is one thing our church could do today to be more committed to God?

No matter where you are in your relationship with God, dedicate yourself to him today. Allow his Word to set you apart so that you can be his ambassador wherever he has placed you. Go be a light to the world by walking in holiness, intentionally serving where God has placed you, and celebrating what he has done.

Jerusalem's wall was finished in 52 days. Amazing! Nehemiah made plans to celebrate. Nehemiah passed out assignments, organized the people, and oversaw every aspect of the celebration. Nehemiah took the celebration as seriously as he took the building of the wall because he knew celebration was the final step of the project. Nehemiah realized the building project started with God, was sustained by God, and was for God. Celebration reminds us that every success happens by the grace of God. What do we need to be celebrating at our churches? Do we recognize and celebrate what God has and is doing here?

No matter what we are doing, thankfulness is not an add-on activity. Without thanksgiving, we would forget what is truly important. When we stop remembering God, we allow unhealthy and false independence to grow. We begin to think we did it. And before we know it, we have removed God from our decision-making process. What would it look like to truly give God all the glory for the accomplishments in our lives? How does forgetting to have thanksgiving remove God from our decision-making process?

Our ability to make a difference is a direct result of God's work in us. All our success is from Him, through Him, and for Him. So, why wouldn't we approach our victories with celebration and thanksgiving? How can you do this better in your life? How can we do it better in the life of the church?

Nehemiah 12:27-29 The Levites had many responsibilities in the life and worship of Israel, but one of the most important jobs they had was to lead the people in songs of worship and praise to God. There is a huge difference between being a great singer and being a great leader of songs of worship to God. Worship should be excellent, but it isn't entertainment. The goal isn't to give people a good feeling (though that may happen), but to give glory and honor to God. We cannot lead others well in an area that we are not strong in. Do you feel as though you worship to give glory to God? What role or responsibility has God given you in the life of your church?

In verse 30, the priests and Levites purified themselves first. Then they brought cleansing to the people the way the Bible said to, knowing that only a purified people could really worship and praise God. Without purity, we can't worship God in spirit and in truth. We can be made pure and clean before God today, right now, by doing what the Bible says to do—not in following the Old Testament ceremony, but by receiving the word of the New Testament: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9) Are you able to truly worship God in spirit and in truth because you have been made pure and clean before God today?

Nehemiah 12:31-43 All praise and worship must have a strong element of thanksgiving to God for it to be genuine. Notice, the singers sang loudly. They were full of thanksgiving and great joy. All the people were overwhelmed with joy and thanksgiving, considering all God had done. Everyone was included. Have you ever worshipped God while overflowing with joy and thanksgiving? Do we worship God in a way that invites others into our worship so that no one is excluded?

The joy of Jerusalem was a testimony to others, and what others heard was not so much the singing itself but the JOY. We often worry about others hearing us sing but what God wants to hear, and what others should hear, is not so much our singing but our joy! Would those listening, hear our joy when we are worshipping?

Nehemiah 12:44-47 People brought their offerings, the firstfruits and the tithes to the storehouse of the Levites, and they did it with joy because they enjoyed supporting the priests and Levites ministering on their behalf. Do you give out of joy? How could your giving become more of an act of joyful worship?

They devoted the city to God and to His honor. They took possession of Jerusalem for him and in his name. We ought to do the same for our homes and our churches. We need to dedicate our spaces to God, asking for His possession and presence to be there, asking for His protection. Dedicating our spaces to honor him and bring him glory. When we dedicate ourselves and our spaces to God, we become more careful in our work and actions. There is an increase in diligence and watchfulness (v. 45). What would it look like to dedicate your home to God's presence and glory?

This Week's Reading Plan: Read Nehemiah 13:1-31 and review next week's lesson

Nehemiah 13

Opening: What is the biggest mess you have ever had to clean up?

Messes are a part of life. When something small is wrong—a loose cap on a gallon of milk, a frozen pipe, or a slick spot on the floor—it can lead to serious problems. The same is true for our spiritual lives. Small compromises or cracks in our faithfulness can lead to big problems in our relationship with God.

In this last lesson from Nehemiah, we will look at how small decisions damaged the witness, worship, and work of God. After all the vows and redemptive work that has taken place in the book of Nehemiah, we might expect this book to end on a happy note. Instead, we see God's people make a series of small compromises that lead to disastrous problems. Nehemiah had left Jerusalem to return to his role in the Persian court, but in his absence, Israel strayed from God's commands. Ultimately, sin is not a problem we can clean up on our own. We all need a savior.

Nehemiah 13:1-10 Micro-compromises in our faith lead to massive diversions from God's purpose and mission. We are all tempted to make small compromises in our individual pursuits of holiness. We may not even notice our little compromises until they have led us far from God. When, if ever, has a compromise led you to unexpected or unwanted places in your faith?

At some point, the people began to value an outside voice over God's, inviting Tobiah, who opposed the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem, to live in God's temple. Letting outside voices guide God's people can be cancerous to our ability to serve God. What voices or ideas have we allowed into our church? In what ways might their influence be diverting us from God's mission?

When Nehemiah learned about the desecration of the temple, he removed Tobiah and all his belongings. The first step of recommitting to God is getting rid of outside influences that damage the witness and work of the church. Is there anything in your life God may be calling you to remove that doesn't honor him? What podcasts, media personalities, or influences might you need to remove from or diminish in your life?

Removing the bad influence from the temple was not enough for Nehemiah. In verse 9, we see him purifying the storehouse. Purification is restoring it to be viewed in the proper way. After we remove the outside influences or habits from our lives, we must reorient our minds to see ourselves the way God sees us. Think about the habits that need to be removed from your life— what better purpose does God have for that area of your life?

Nehemiah 13:11-14 After Nehemiah removed Tobiah from the temple and purified the storeroom, he started using the storehouse for its intended purpose. He also reinstated the Levites and put them back to work in the temple. Like the Israelites, it is not enough to have a verbal commitment to God—we need to actively obey him. What areas of your life do you feel are not committed to God? What could it look like to recommit those areas of your life to God?

Nehemiah turned to God in verse 14, asking to be remembered for his faithfulness. Despite all his work rebuilding the wall and the rededication of the people, Jerusalem had still fallen into sin and apathy. There are times when standing for God can feel exhausting or even fruitless. But God does not forget the good work we have done in his name, even when we cannot see tangible results from our work. How do you react when your faithfulness feels unrewarded, unnoticed, or unimpactful? What could you do to remind yourself that God sees and remembers you?

The remainder of Nehemiah 13 addresses more compromises Israel made in Nehemiah's absence. It may be easy to think of their compromises as simple changes in behavior, but their actions revealed their hearts. Instead of honoring God, they ignored God and his commands.

Nehemiah 13:15-31 The Israelites broke their vow to keep the Sabbath by opening their gates to outside merchants. What God ordained as a holy day had become just another day of business. Our circumstances today may be different from the Israelites', but like them, we can easily be distracted from worshipping God. What commitments, activities, or interests absorb most of your time? What compromises can these priorities ask us to make in our faith?

In verses 20 and 22, Nehemiah set up guards at the gates of Jerusalem to prevent the bustle of commerce from interrupting the Sabbath. There is wisdom in setting up safeguards to help us keep our priorities on Jesus. What preventive measures could help keep you focused on worshipping God rather than the things of this world?

When the Israelites married people from different cultures, their families wandered from the faith. In verse 24, we see that many of the families in Jerusalem did not even speak Hebrew. The children had no way to understand God's Word, much less obey it. In what ways can families be tempted to wander from the faith today? How can we, as a community, share the responsibility to raise children according to God's Word?

The book abruptly ends with the ongoing work in Jerusalem. It seems like Nehemiah's work will never be done. It may feel like an unsatisfying ending, but the unresolved nature of sin is the point of the book. We cannot fix our true problem. Nehemiah ultimately shows us our need for a savior, who we know is Christ.

To sum up the Book of Nehemiah, it calls the church back to God and charges us to rededicate ourselves to him so that we can represent him in the world. As you think back on this series, in what specific ways is God calling us to represent him in our community? Do we, as a church, need to come together for a time of confession, rededication, and renewed focus on our mission to Praise God, Make Disciples, and Serve All?