

Nehemiah Lesson 12

Building Ministry Through Confession

Day 1 Read Neh 9:1-4 Begin in Humility

1. As this congregation began to study the Word of God, their hearts were filled with grief. Explain why, and relate the process that starts with hearing, and progresses to confession.

2. Verse 1 states that they “*assembled with fasting*”. What is the purpose of this spiritual discipline? What might it look like today? _____

3. As they assemble to confess their sins in prayer, they approach in humility and confess the sins of their fathers. They stand in solidarity and take responsibility for the actions of those that have gone before them. With the American church’s departure into liberalism, how can we respond in like manner? _____

4. Explain the difference between *remorse and repentance*. Give examples of each in Scripture. _____

Day 2 Read Neh 9:5-15 Exalt His Sovereign Grace

1. In verses 5-15, we see God being exalted for His work in creation, His choosing of Abraham and His preservation of His people. If you were leading a group of believers in a prayer of confession, write how you would exalt God for **1) His common grace, 2) His special (choosing) grace, and 3) His preserving grace.** _____

2. What are some practical ways you can remember to employ appropriate salutations and giving of glory as you “*enter the throne room*”? _____

Day 3 Read Neh 9:16-17a Relate Our Rebellion

1. Verse 16 states they acted "**arrogantly**". Relate a small area of disobedience in your life and then explain why it is really arrogance against God. Give a verse to support it. _____

2. Verse 17 states that our sin is also "**forgetting His grace**". Explain. _____

3. How can regular daily "**spiritual baths**" (quiet times) help us remember graces? (Ps 119:11) Relate a personal experience as to how this is true. _____

Day 4 Read Neh 9:17b-25 Magnify His Mercy

1. Grace is "**getting what I don't deserve**", while mercy is "**not getting what I do deserve**". What did the Israelites deserve? Though we are not Israel, application can be made to the church. What do we deserve? What instead has God given us in the way of mercy?

2. Look closely at verses 17-25. **Why** does God show us mercy? _____

Day 5 Read Neh 9:26-31 Praise Him for His Patience

1. Not only does He show mercy, but also His longsuffering is beyond comprehension. It is because of His covenant love. How is God's love for His people often times different than our love for His people? Relate specifically how we as a body can emulate Him more.

Day 6 Read Neh 9:32-37 Ask for Deliverance

1. Although we are forgiven, there are earthly consequences to our sin. The Israelites realize this and yet ask God's intervention to alleviate their pain. How is our situation as part of the church in the U.S. different from theirs coming out of exile? What have we not experienced? _____

