

# NEHEMIAH

BUILDING  
MINISTRY  
TOGETHER

## Lesson 12: Nehemiah 9:1-37 Building Ministry Through Confession

### Welcome and Play Time 10 Min

An essential factor to needing a Savior is knowing you are a sinner. This is one of the hardest lessons for anyone from 3 to 103 to learn. A right view of ourselves is maintained by continually coming to the Lord in humility to confess our shortfalls while recognizing His perfection. Today as you go over this section of Nehemiah talk about how the obedience of their hands is now growing into obedience of their hearts. They did the work of rebuilding the walls and now they are doing the work of rebuilding their relationship with the Lord. This is the most important work of rebuilding in the book of Nehemiah!

Use this time as people are arriving for the kids to get comfortable with each other and settled in so that Mom and Dad can enjoy small group.

### Bible Lesson Activities 20 Min

#### Activity 1: Humble Thyself

Start your time with a song! Here is a wonderful and simple song to sing. Boys sing first and then girls echo.

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord (girls echo)

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord (girls echo)

And He will lift you up, higher and higher, and he will lift you up.

**Activity 2: Remember His Grace** Sometimes remembering God's faithfulness in our lives can be like hunting easter eggs. We have to search our memories like we search for eggs. We have to look high and low, even though sometimes God's grace is right in front of our faces! When we start to look for it, then we will find it.



Set up a small easter egg hunt around the room. Put in each egg a candy kiss and a verse from Nehemiah 9 reminding the children of how faithful God was to His people.

**Activity 3: Hot Potato Confession** Explain what confession is. It is agreeing with God that what you've done is not honoring to Him. Have children sit in a circle. As they sing "Jesus Loves Me" pass a ball or potato around. When the song ends, the child left holding the potato must confess something they've done that wasn't honoring to God. If they don't want to confess, then they are out. Continue passing and singing as many times as you like!

### Bible Reading Time & Scripture Memory 10 Min

Have children stand to honor the reading of God's Word. Pray and thank God for giving us His Word. Read the Word straight through and then give yourself time to discuss after you've read the whole passage.

### Read Nehemiah 9:31-37 (NASB) Read from a Bible if you have one available

"Nevertheless, in Your great compassion You did not make an end of them or forsake them, for You are gracious and compassionate God. 32"Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness, Do not let all the hardship seem insignificant before You, which has come upon us, our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers and on all Your people, From the days of the kings of Assyria to this day. 33"However, You are just in all that has come upon us; For You have dealt faithfully, but we have acted wickedly. 34"For our kings, our leaders, our priests and our fathers have not kept Your law or paid attention to Your commandments and Your admonitions with which You have admonished them. 35"But they, in their own kingdom, with Your great goodness which You gave them, with the broad and rich land which You set before them, did not serve You or turn from their evil deeds. 36"Behold, we are slaves today, and as to the land which You gave to our fathers to eat of its fruit and its bounty, behold, we are slaves in it. 37"Its abundant produce is for the kings whom You have set over us because of our sins; they also rule over our bodies and over our cattle as they please, so we are in great distress.

**Discuss with the children what the verses mean.** These people are hungry to please God! What does that mean? It means that they were seeing that their lives were not what God had intended and they wanted to fix it! Today we've humbled ourselves, remembered God's grace, and confessed our sins. **What did this section of verses begin with?** (*praising God for His mercy*). **What is mercy?** (*not getting what you do deserve*). **Can you think of what might be an example of mercy in your life?** (*not getting spanked when I deserved it, getting to do something fun even though I had been ungrateful*). **What were the last verses talking about?** (*the people were asking God for help*)

When the people had a right view of themselves and a right view of God, they knew they had no right to ask anything of God. They also knew of God's compassion and grace for His people, so they asked their Heavenly Father for what they desired in a way that honored Him as the King that He is.

### Let's memorize this week's verse:

**"Therefore, confess your sins to one another."  
James 5:16a**

### Coloring Sheet 10 Min

Pass out the memory verse coloring sheets and have children color them. As you color repeat the verse several times to help the words sink in!

### Closing/Clean Up 5 Min

Clean up and make sure everyone has shoes on, coloring sheets in hand and everything is put back in the room. Praise God for a wonderful group of young people!



**THEREFORE, CONFESS YOUR  
SINS TO ONE ANOTHER  
JAMES 5:16A**