

Nehemiah 9:38-10:39 Lesson 14

Building Ministry Through Covenant

Day 1 Read Neh 9:38-10:39 Why a Covenant?

1. Our opening illustration compared renting a car to owning one. Explain the difference between **consumerism and commitment** as it relates to ministry in the local church. _____

2. So far we have seen the Word produce **contrition, celebration, obedience, confession and now a covenant**. Explain the direct connection between real confession and the willingness to commit to a change. If there is no willingness to commit, what does that say about the confession? _____

3. What does putting it in writing accomplish? _____

Day 2 Read Neh 9:38-10:39 What is in a Covenant?

1. The covenant in verses 28-31 has three parts – **Past Separation, Present Congregation and Future Obligation**. Look at verse 28 and explain from what, we as believers are to separate ourselves. _____

2. Explain practically what that looks like since we are still in this world? Give an example from your daily life. _____

3. We, like the Israelites, join with others who are committed to the gospel. Explain why your spiritual family takes precedence over unbelieving physical family (relatives). Relate a situation where you might have to choose one over the other when it comes to honoring or dishonoring God. Give a verse to support your answer. _____

4. What is the first thing they commit themselves to in verse 30? Contemporize this verse in your own words. _____

Day 3 Read Neh 9:38 – 10:39 What is in a Covenant?

1. Nehemiah spends quite a bit of time addressing giving in verses 31-37. Money is just a part of the things God has given us to manage. Read these verses and relate practical examples of how we can give of our **time, talent and treasure** today. _____

2. If our doctrinal statement explains what we believe, **our covenant explains how we behave**. Why are both necessary if we are to “**Impart the Word and Impart our Lives**” (1 Thess 2:8). What happens if we focus on one to the extent of the other? _____

Day 4 Read Neh 9:38 – 10:39 Why a Covenant Today?

Your Small Group Leader forwarded you both the Old Covenant and the Revised Covenant. The following questions will be drawn from these documents:

1. Under the Old Covenant, item 4 states that “We will support the testimony of our church **by living a godly life.**” Read the statement under Item 1, pt.2 in the Revised Covenant along with the Scriptures and explain the difference. _____

2. How is the evangelism statement under item 2 (Old Covenant) “**by inviting the church to attend**” different from the last statement under Item 1 in the Revised Covenant? What is the difference in philosophy? _____

3. In the Old Covenant, the first statement under item 1 is “**by acting in love towards other members**”. Why was it important to explain it more fully under item 2 in the Revised Covenant? _____

4. What is the change in the last statement under item 3 in the Revised Covenant? (Compare to Old Covenant last statement under item 2) Why is this essential? _____

5. A Covenant is not like a “**bus pass**” that you use once to get on, but rather something to utilize regularly. What are some practical ways we as a body can keep these precepts on the forefront of our mind? _____

