

**1. Fasting, Confession, and Worship**

- a) Nehemiah 9:1-3 Why did the Jewish worshippers fast, wear sackcloth, and put dust or ashes on their heads? (see also Daniel 9:3-7)
- b) Why did these Jewish worshippers separate themselves at this time from all foreigners? Isn't everyone invited and welcome to worship?
- c) What are your thoughts about spending 3 hours reading the Bible and another 3 hours in worship and confession?
- d) How does this experience of corporate repentance for the children of Israel relate to our lives today?

**2. Lifting our hearts in praise to the LORD**

- a) What appeal did the worship leaders make to those who were gathered for worship? Nehemiah 9:5b-6
- b) Why is praise to the LORD, our Creator and Sustainer, an essential element of true worship? (see also Psalm 100:1-5)
- c) What reasons do you have to praise the LORD?
- d) What is the difference between praising the LORD "in spirit and truth" and emotionalism or exhibitionism?

**3. God's faithfulness and our unfaithfulness**

- a) Nehemiah 9:7-15 Why are those leading this prayer recounting the faithfulness of God in the past?

- b) Notice the recounting of unfaithfulness by the children of Israel and how the LORD responded.

- i) Nehemiah 9:16-17a, 17b
- ii) Nehemiah 9:18, 19-25
- iii) Nehemiah 9:26-27a, 27b
- iv) Nehemiah 9:28a, 28b

- c) What lessons can we learn from these accounts of human unfaithfulness and God's faithfulness?

- d) Share a time when God was faithful to His promises to you even when you were unfaithful to Him.

**4. Guidance through the prophets**

- a) Nehemiah 9:30 Who were some of the prophets the LORD sent before the exile to Babylon to warn of impending judgment if the children of Israel did not repent and turn from their evil ways? (Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Micah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Jeremiah)
- b) "Yet they would not listen." Why is it important to recognize the words of God through the prophets as valuable and authoritative for our lives today? Psalm 32:8-11, Amos 3:7, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21
- c) Why is the guidance provided through Jesus the greatest revelation of all? Hebrews 1:1-3, John 5:39-40, John 14:6, 1 John 5:11-13

