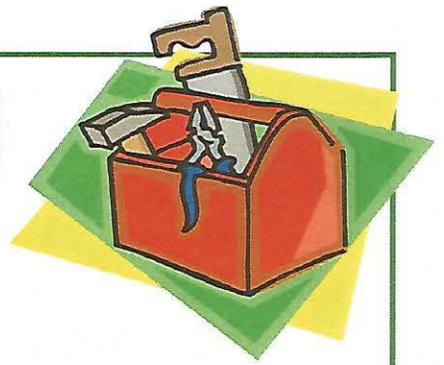


Building Your Life for God



Lesson 11

Ezra and Nehemiah

Theme: Repentance—Sorrow for sin; deciding to obey God

Memory Verses

“Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people...and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord the great God. And all the people answered ‘Amen, Amen!’ while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.”
Nehemiah 8:5-6

Daily Bible Readings

Thursday Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 10-12, 14, 16-18
Friday Nehemiah 9:1-2, 5-25
Saturday Nehemiah 9:26-38
Monday Nehemiah 10:28-36
Tuesday Nehemiah 13:1-22

In the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, God’s people in Jerusalem were not living for God the best they could. Life was not always easy, and some people started disobeying God. Ezra and Nehemiah tried to help people obey God and never turn back.

Ezra Reads God’s Law to the People

Once the temple of God and the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt, it was time for people to rebuild their lives as God’s people. They got off to a good start by asking Ezra to bring the book of the Law of God. Jews from all over the country came to Jerusalem, and Ezra stood up to read God’s Word.

Ezra stood on a platform to read. People showed respect for God’s Law



Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 10-12, 14, 16-18

Who came to the square to hear Ezra read from the Law of God?

all Jews Romans high priest

What did people do when Ezra opened the Law and blessed the Lord?



Nehemiah 9:1-2, 5-25

Look in a dictionary to find the meaning of the word “confess.” Write a definition here in your own words.

Name three times God took care of His people even though they were stubborn.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

by standing up when Ezra opened the book. When Ezra thanked God for all He had done for His people, the people bowed down and worshiped God. Ezra read God’s Law for a long time, and people paid attention.

When people heard God’s Word, they became sad because they realized how much they had disobeyed. They began to cry. Ezra and Nehemiah helped the people understand that this was a happy occasion. God’s Word was being read, and the people were understanding it. This was a time to celebrate.

Part of the reading was about

the Feast of Booths — a reminder of how God took care of them in the wilderness. After reading about it, the people happily celebrated this feast in a way they had not done in a long time.

God’s People Confess their Wrongs

The word “confess” means “to say the same thing.” Suppose your mother says, “I think you broke this glass.” If you confess to doing it, you say the same thing your mother says: “Yes, I broke the glass.” In the days of Nehemiah, the people of Israel confessed their sins; they said they had disobeyed God’s Law.

People confessed their wrongs with a poem. In speaking the poem, people told about God’s power and grace. They remembered how God helped them, led them, and forgave them many times. They said they had been stubborn and did not always listen to God.

The people then promised to start obeying God again. They said they would not marry people of the land

Nehemiah 9:26-38

True or False? The people thought their punishment was unfair.

Who caused the people to be punished?

the people God Ezra





Nehemiah 10:28-36

What did many people agree to do when merchants tried to buy and sell on the Sabbath?

How did the people plan to support the temple and its services?

because this would tempt them to follow other gods. They promised to take care of the house of God so priests could make sacrifices. They decided to serve God again.

People Turn Back to God

After a while, Nehemiah returned to Persia to serve the king. While he was gone, Tobiah, one of the enemies of God's people, started living in the temple in Jerusalem.

When Nehemiah came back to Jerusalem, he found that people were not obeying God. Nehemiah threw Tobiah and all his things out of the temple. Nehemiah got right to work teaching the people and helping them follow God. Building our lives for God means learning, growing, and changing. We should try our best to go God's way and never turn from it.



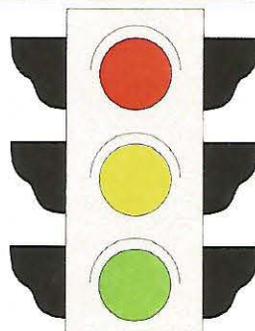
Nehemiah 13:1-22

While Nehemiah was back in Persia, who came to live in the temple building?

It was wrong for him to live in the temple, because

- he was a Jew.
- he was an enemy.
- he was a friend.

I confess when I do wrong.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

Red — rarely

Yellow — sometimes

Green — always

Think About It ...



My little brother makes me so mad sometimes. When this happens, I tell him he is stupid and I make him go away when I have a friend over to play. One day one of my friends told me it was wrong to be so unkind. Can you believe he said that to me? What do you think I should do?



Nail Down the Bible Facts

Fill in the blanks with the Beatitudes: “Blessed are the _____ in spirit, for theirs is the _____ of heaven. Blessed are those who _____, for they shall be _____.

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the _____. Blessed are those who _____ and _____ for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the _____, for they shall receive _____. Blessed are the _____ in heart, for they shall see _____. Blessed are the _____, for they shall be called the _____ of God. Blessed are those who have been _____ for the sake of _____, for theirs is the kingdom of _____.” NASB

Which book of the Old Testament is about rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem?

On a map inside the back cover, study the major regions of Canaan—Negev, Hill Country, Coastal Plain, and Transjordan. Be ready to show these areas on a blank map.