

Dayton Women in the Word Summer Study Children's Lessons

EZRA & NEHEMIAH WEEK 10

Nehemiah 10-11

Scripture: "We will not neglect the house of our God." Nehemiah 10:39

MAIN TRUTH: We can turn to God.

MATERIALS:

Phone & cup to mic it

Audio Adrenaline song "[This Day](#)"

Coloring pages

Crayons

LESSON CONTENT:

- Last week learned that Ezra stood up in front of all the people to read the Bible all day long. When they heard the Bible the people were moved to worship. They also began celebrating feasts again to remember what God had done for them and confessed their sins to God.
- **The Bible calls this "turning to God."** It can mean your heart is turning toward God. Or it can even mean your body is actually turning to God by kneeling, bowing, looking up, or closing your eyes.
- After this confession **they asked the priests to write out a covenant** they would make with God. **A covenant is an agreement.** In this covenant they turned to God - when they did this they were telling God that He was the most important. The people told God they would do a few things:
 - They would only **marry followers of God**. They had been marrying people who worshiped idols and they began to act like their ungodly family members. It was a big mess and a violation of God's plan for them. Remember how God was calling them to be holy - set apart? That meant separating themselves from other people who sin and make bad choices.
 - They would **obey God's law about the Sabbath**. God gave them rules about resting one day a week and one year every seven years. This was a big deal because everything they did during the day was so they could eat and survive. In this covenant they promised God they would trust him instead of worrying about what they would eat or where they would live. All they had to do was remember all the ways God had kept his promises and taken care of them in every hard situation.
 - They would **take care of the Temple**. They would all work together to get all the right materials. They would work to support the priests and Levites whose job it was to do temple chores all the time.
- Next in the book of Nehemiah we learn about how the Israelites were growing in number and spreading out around the city of Jerusalem. They had farms and the land was beginning to look better, full of life and people, more like it did before exile.
- But a few families volunteered to live inside the city. This was a little more dangerous because of all the people who had opposed the construction of the Temple and the wall. It may have been harder for families to live in a small city where there weren't crops growing or lots of people to trade with. But they were obedient and took a risk. **They turned to God because they knew they could trust him.**

PRAYER

God, we are so grateful that you give us the Bible to guide us, your Son Jesus to save us, and your Holy Spirit to help us do your work. Give us eyes that turn to you and hearts that want you more than anything else in the world. Get rid of distractions in our lives so we can focus on serving you even when others try to tell us it's not important. We love you Father! Amen.

ACTIVITIES

- Coloring Page
- Stop: Turn to God
 - Listen to "[This Day](#)" by Audio Adrenaline:
 - I wanna say a prayer
Before my feet can hit the ground
Lord I give this day to you
Breathe in, breathe out, breathe in
I give this day to you
And let the day begin
I give this day to you
 - **When Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and the rest of the Israelites were faced with distractions, frustrations, and sin of their own, God helped whenever they turned to him.**
 - **In this song, Audio Adrenaline sings about turning to God before we even get out of bed. That is something you can try each day you wake up! And something you can pray God will prompt you to do before you go to bed each night.**
 - Teach a focusing exercise to remember to pray when you wake up and when you need help: **breathe, turn, remember, ask.** Slow, methodical breathing; head slightly lifted to remind us to look to God for help; eyes closed; remember what we know about God; ask him to help you. Have kids lie down to simulate waking up in the morning, then have them sit up and practice it as if they are in the middle of a situation.
 - **When God speaks it's not usually a sound we hear. Sometimes it's a knowing. Sometimes it's a friend or parent giving us advice. If you ask God to help you understand him, he will help you!**
 - Skit/charade grab: pull from basket of scenarios and volunteers act out how to *Stop: Turn to God* in the middle of a stressful situation. (e.g. feeling frustrated with annoying sibling, getting in trouble at school when it isn't really your fault, getting your feelings hurt by friends, etc.)

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

What does it mean to turn to God?

Change what you're doing; turn your heart and body to Him

Why can we turn to God?

God shows us in the Bible over and over again that we can trust Him

When can we turn to God?

Anytime! The Israelites turned to God after they made a lot of mistakes. They also turned toward him when they were making decisions or doing brave things.