Harvester Christian Church

Life Groups | **PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY**

NEHEMIAH | RETURN, RESTORE, REVIVE

**WEEK 8 – Chapters 10-13**

We come this week to Nehemiah 10. Because of the way this series fits into our Life Groups calendar, this lesson will also wrap up our study of Nehemiah. Our goal will be to gain a general understanding of the material contained in **chapters 10-13** and to focus in on a few key points of application.

**As you read Nehemiah 10-13, here is an outline of what you will see.**

Nehemiah 10 God’s people promise to change their behavior

Nehemiah 11 More people take up residence in Jerusalem

Nehemiah 12 The wall is dedicated

Nehemiah 13 The people return to disobedience in Nehemiah’s absence

The story of Nehemiah, like many in the Old Testament, is a story about the rewards of obedience and the consequences of disobedience. The destruction of Jerusalem had come about because of the disobedience of God’s people. Nehemiah recognized that from the beginning (Nehemiah 1:7). The return to Jerusalem was a new opportunity for the people of Israel to rediscover truth in God’s Word and commit themselves anew to being God’s obedient children.

Having confessed their sins in Nehemiah 9, God’s people determined to follow through with a new commitment to living in obedience to God’s Law. They made a “binding agreement” in regard to the changes they would institute and they wrote it down (Nehemiah 9:38). We will focus this week not on the specific commitments that they made in Nehemiah 10, but, instead on the ***importance of obedience*** in the lives of all believers.

**Please read the passages below and answer some questions about obedience.**

In **Genesis 22:15-18**, how had God tested Abraham?

What does God promise to Abraham as a result of his obedience?

Who does God say would be blessed because of the obedience of this one man?

In **Exodus 19:3-6**, with whom is God speaking?

God makes conditional promises to him. What are the conditions in 19:5?

What are the promises in 19:5-6?

In **Deuteronomy 28:1-14**, God promises many things to His people through Moses if they would obey and follow. Write a brief summary of those promises.

In **I Samuel 15:22**, what is meant by “to obey is better than sacrifice?”

In **John 14:23-24,** what vital thing does Jesus say about obedience?

**Weekly Challenge**

God’s people were convicted of their sin and intended to do something about it, so they made a pledge and wrote it down (Nehemiah 9:38). The challenge for us this week is to do something similar. Ask God to show you one area of your life where change is needed and what He would have you do about it. When you have a plan, write it down in your journal or maybe on an index card you can post somewhere as a reminder. Refer to it from time to time in order to assess your progress.

**Group Discussion**

What are some factors that make obeying God difficult?

What are some factors that make it difficult to obey other people (parents, bosses, legislators)?

What do you make of Jesus’ statement that there is a direct connection between love and obedience?

What are some ways we can help one another be better (more obedient) followers of Jesus?

How do you feel about the way the story of Nehemiah concludes in chapter 13?

As you reflect on the entire story of Nehemiah, what stands out in your mind?

Was there anything else from the homework or teaching you wanted to discuss?