



## 📖 PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the sons of Israel assembled with fasting, in sackcloth and with dirt upon them. **2** The descendants of Israel separated themselves from all foreigners, and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. **3** While they stood in their place, they read from the book of the law of the Lord their God for a fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the Lord their God. **4** Now on the Levites' platform stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani and Chenani, and they cried with a loud voice to the Lord their God.

**5** Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah and Pethahiah, said, "Arise, bless the Lord your God forever and ever!

O may Your glorious name be blessed  
And exalted above all blessing and praise!

**6** "You alone are the Lord.  
You have made the heavens,  
The heaven of heavens with all their host,  
The earth and all that is on it,  
The seas and all that is in them.  
You give life to all of them  
And the heavenly host bows down before You.

**7** "You are the Lord God,  
Who chose Abram  
And brought him out from Ur of the Chaldees,  
And gave him the name Abraham.

**8** "You found his heart faithful before You,  
And made a covenant with him  
To give him the land of the Canaanite,  
Of the Hittite and the Amorite,  
Of the Perizzite, the Jebusite and the Girgashite—  
To give it to his descendants.  
And You have fulfilled Your promise,  
For You are righteous.

**9** "You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt,  
And heard their cry by the Red Sea.

**10** "Then You performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh,  
Against all his servants and all the people of his land;  
For You knew that they acted arrogantly toward them,  
And made a name for Yourself as it is this day.

**11** "You divided the sea before them,  
So they passed through the midst of the sea on dry  
ground;

And their pursuers You hurled into the depths,  
Like a stone into raging waters.

**12** "And with a pillar of cloud You led them by day,  
And with a pillar of fire by night  
To light for them the way  
In which they were to go.

**13** "Then You came down on Mount Sinai,  
And spoke with them from heaven;  
You gave them just ordinances and true laws,  
Good statutes and commandments.

**14** "So You made known to them Your holy sabbath,  
And laid down for them commandments, statutes  
and law,  
Through Your servant Moses.

**15** "You provided bread from heaven for them for  
their hunger,  
You brought forth water from a rock for them for  
their thirst,  
And You told them to enter in order to possess  
The land which You swore to give them.

**16** "But they, our fathers, acted arrogantly;  
They became stubborn and would not listen to Your  
commandments.

**17** "They refused to listen,  
And did not remember Your wondrous deeds which  
You had performed among them;  
So they became stubborn and appointed a leader to  
return to their slavery in Egypt.  
But You are a God of forgiveness,  
Gracious and compassionate,  
Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness;  
And You did not forsake them.

**18** "Even when they made for themselves  
A calf of molten metal

And said, 'This is your God  
Who brought you up from Egypt,'  
And committed great blasphemies,

**19** You, in Your great compassion,  
Did not forsake them in the wilderness;  
The pillar of cloud did not leave them by day,  
To guide them on their way,  
Nor the pillar of fire by night, to light for them the  
way in which they were to go.

**20** "You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them,  
Your manna You did not withhold from their mouth,  
And You gave them water for their thirst.

**21** "Indeed, forty years You provided for them in  
the wilderness and they were not in want;  
Their clothes did not wear out, nor did their feet  
swell.

**22** "You also gave them kingdoms and peoples,  
And allotted them to them as a boundary.  
They took possession of the land of Sihon the king  
of Heshbon  
And the land of Og the king of Bashan.

**23** "You made their sons numerous as the stars of  
heaven,  
And You brought them into the land  
Which You had told their fathers to enter and  
possess.

**24** "So their sons entered and possessed the land.  
And You subdued before them the inhabitants of  
the land, the Canaanites,  
And You gave them into their hand, with their kings  
and the peoples of the land,  
To do with them as they desired.



**25** "They captured fortified cities and a fertile land.  
They took possession of houses full of every good thing,  
Hewn cisterns, vineyards, olive groves,  
Fruit trees in abundance.  
So they ate, were filled and grew fat,  
And reveled in Your great goodness.

**26** "But they became disobedient and rebelled against  
You,  
And cast Your law behind their backs  
And killed Your prophets who had admonished them  
So that they might return to You,  
And they committed great blasphemies.

**27** "Therefore You delivered them into the hand of  
their oppressors who oppressed them,  
But when they cried to You in the time of their distress,  
You heard from heaven, and according to Your great  
compassion,  
You gave them deliverers who delivered them from the  
hand of their oppressors.

**28** "But as soon as they had rest, they did evil again  
before You;  
Therefore You abandoned them to the hand of their  
enemies, so that they ruled over them.  
When they cried again to You, You heard from heaven,  
And many times You rescued them according to Your  
compassion,

**29** And admonished them in order to turn them back to  
Your law.  
Yet they acted arrogantly and did not listen to Your  
commandments but sinned against Your ordinances,  
By which if a man observes them he shall live.  
And they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their  
neck, and would not listen.

**30** "However, You bore with them for many years,  
And admonished them by Your Spirit through Your  
prophets,  
Yet they would not give ear.  
Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples  
of the lands.

**31** "Nevertheless, in Your great compassion You  
did not make an end of them or forsake them,  
For You are a gracious and compassionate God.

**32** "Now therefore, our God, the great, the  
mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps  
covenant and lovingkindness,  
Do not let all the hardship seem insignificant  
before You,  
Which has come upon us, our kings, our princes,  
our priests, our prophets, our fathers and on all  
Your people,  
From the days of the kings of Assyria to this day.

**33** "However, You are just in all that has come  
upon us;  
For You have dealt faithfully, but we have acted  
wickedly.

**34** "For our kings, our leaders, our priests and our  
fathers have not kept Your law  
Or paid attention to Your commandments and  
Your admonitions with which You have  
admonished them.

**35** "But they, in their own kingdom,  
With Your great goodness which You gave them,  
With the broad and rich land which You set before  
them,  
Did not serve You or turn from their evil deeds.

**36** "Behold, we are slaves today,  
And as to the land which You gave to our fathers  
to eat of its fruit and its bounty,  
Behold, we are slaves in it.

**37** "Its abundant produce is for the kings  
Whom You have set over us because of our sins;  
They also rule over our bodies  
And over our cattle as they please,  
So we are in great distress.

**38** "Now because of all this  
We are making an agreement in writing;  
And on the sealed document are the names of our  
leaders, our Levites and our priests."





## REFLECT/CONNECT

These questions provide for individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- What has been your biggest takeaway from Nehemiah so far?
- If you could write a short "history" of God's faithfulness in your life, what key moments would you include?



## GROW IN THE WORD

These questions are designed to guide individual study and foster spiritual conversation in a group.

1. After the people celebrated the Feast of Booths, the Israelites assembled to fast, grieve, and confess their sins before the Lord. They read from the Law, confessed, and then worshipped God. The Levites led the people in a prayer that recounted their history, their failures, and God's faithfulness (v. 1-31).
- What stands out to you in how the people approached confession and worship?
  - How would you describe the God of Israel based on the people's prayer? Notice the repetition used, and see also Exodus 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 7:9.
  - In what way does the nature of God make room for honest, vulnerable confession? What fears or uncertainties prevent this type of confession from taking place?



## GROW IN THE WORD

These questions are designed to guide individual study and foster spiritual conversation in a group.

2. The people ended their prayer of confession and worship by appealing to their faithful God to remember them in their distress. They acknowledged that their suffering was a just consequence of their history of unfaithfulness, and responded with a written and binding commitment to walk in obedience and renew their faithfulness to Him (v. 32-38).
- Why do you think the Israelites decided to make a written commitment to renew their walk with God? Why is it important that they turned their confession into commitment? See Luke 3:8; 2 Corinthians 7:10.
  - Can confession be genuine without a desire to change? Why or why not? What happens when confession isn't followed by a commitment to change?
  - What areas of your life might God be calling you to confess and surrender to Him with a commitment to change?

## Upcoming Events

### HYMN SING | MARCH 30 | 5 PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us for an evening of worship as we gather to sing hymns. We are excited to set aside time to refocus and worship the Lord together.

### FATHER CHILD BASEBALL GAME | APRIL 5

Join us as the Trinity University Tigers take on the Schreiner University Mountaineers in an exciting baseball game! Enjoy free admission and parking, with concessions available for purchase at the field. This is a great chance for Wayside fathers and their kids to come together and enjoy the classic American pastime. Don't miss out on this fun-filled community event with your Wayside family!

