



## **Unit 10 Guide**

### **SERIES: LESSONS ON THE POWER OF COMBINED EFFORT**

#### **Lesson #10: “Joining Together to Learn From Our Past”**

**Nehemiah 9:1-37**

**Announcements and opening prayer.**



**Connect:** an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What does it usually take to get someone to take a long hard look at their life and admit the path they were on was wrong?

**The Bottom Line:** God’s people learn from mistakes and successes.

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#### **LESSON PLAN**



**Denotes “Apply”**

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**Read Nehemiah 8:16-18 (to review for today’s lesson)**

1. What was their spirit and attitude at this time?

2. How many days did this party and Scripture reading last?

**Read Leviticus 23:39-44**

⌚ How could you and I throw a party that would honor God? What would that party look like?

**Read Nehemiah 9:1-3**

3. What change do you see taking place on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the month, 2 days after the feast is over and 1 day after they had an assembly or meeting of all the people?

*Sackcloth was most often made of coarse, black goat's hair. As its name indicates, it was used for sacks, but was also customarily worn by mourners (in some countries, the ancient custom is still faintly seen today when mourners wear black arm bands at funerals), or as a sign of deep repentance and humility. Ashes were often included as a further symbol of personal disgust and sorrow. The out-ward demonstration of deep mourning and heaviness of heart for*

*their iniquity seems to have been done in the spirit of the Day of Atonement, which was normally observed on the tenth day of the seventh month.*

- ⦿ Do you think we have taken repentance too lightly? What do you think each of us could personally do to repent more completely before our God?

*Sin is doing what we should not do and NOT doing what we should do before our God. Repentance then would consider both areas of our failures. A great tool is to daily look at the last 24 hour period and confess before God those failures. Then ask Him to strengthen you in those areas of your life.*

**Read Nehemiah 9:4-5a**

# Peak

*Notice the Levite priests are leading in the call to stand up and praise the Lord your God who is from everlasting to everlasting.*

- ⦿ Why is praise such a vital part of a repentant heart?

# University

*Today we want to do something a bit different. I want you to work at your tables in your groups for most of the rest of this class to learn God's lessons from Nehemiah's leadership and holiness. He has led them to serve, to celebrate, to repent and now to praise. As we work on this part of the lesson, we should have some great ideas to share at the end of class.*



**Interactive Teaching Ideas:** ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table: At each table, work together to make a list all the points of praise you can find in the Levite's prayer that takes up the rest of the chapter. Share any similar reasons you have for offering praise to the Lord.

- ⦿ What is the most important truth you have learned from this lesson?



## **Going Deeper/Homework:**

**Memory Verse:** "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).