

Group/Individual Study

Series: Nehemiah: Rebuild, Restore, Renew

Passages: Nehemiah 9, 10:28-29

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 3/11

1. Israel's history to this point had been a repeating cycle: God saved them and established relationship; the people later wander away from God; God tried to woo them back gently; then when they wouldn't return, He allowed hardship to come so they would "hit bottom" and come back. Have you ever experienced parts of this cycle in your life?
2. Read Nehemiah 9:3. How does reading God's Word tend to lead to worship? How does it lead to confession and repentance? How are each of these elements what it's like to have our souls revived?
3. Read Nehemiah 9:33 & 36-37. When we "hit bottom" and return to God, what changes in our attitude? What things do we start doing? What things do we stop doing?
4. Read Nehemiah 9:38. Though the people make a covenant here to follow God again, by the end of the book of Nehemiah they've already abandoned it. Human effort is never enough. How was the coming of Jesus and the giving of the Holy Spirit a "game changer" in this regard?
5. Read Ezekiel 36:25-27. Here God tells in advance how things are going to be different once Jesus comes. Describe the elements you see here. What are the most important things for you personally for nurturing your connection to Jesus and the Holy Spirit?
6. A story is told of a father and son crossing a swift stream. The father told the son, "Hold my hand." The son said, "No, you hold my hand." When the father asked why, the son said, "Because if we get into the middle of the river and the current is strong, my grip on you might slip -- but your grip on me never will." How does this story illustrate the difference of following the Lord in the New Testament era verses doing so before Christ?