



Discussion Questions **LEADER GUIDE**

Week of 5/26/24

LEADERS—This is our final week of discussion questions before we take a break for the summer. We plan to resume producing questions in the fall.

Text: Nehemiah 10 (Boulder and Thornton); Nehemiah 9-10 (Erie)

Erie Campus: See page 2 from last week for questions related to chapter 9.

Icebreaker: What are one or two qualities about yourself that makes you unique? (You get extra points if you can make your group laugh.)

This question is meant to tee up the topic of *being unique or distinct*. Chapter 10 highlights different ways the people in Jerusalem obligated themselves to living distinct from the rest of the people around them.

1. Read chapter 10. What stands out to you from the sermon or from the chapter?

2. Verse 28 mentions “all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God.” From the chapter, in what ways are they committing to live distinctly from the people around them?

In general, v. 29 says the people committed “to walk in God’s Law...and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord and his rules and his statutes.” The rest of the chapter, though, includes specifics such as not intermarrying, not participating in commerce on the Sabbath, giving financially, sacrificing the firstfruits of their crops, etc.

Application: What are a few areas of life that we, as followers of Jesus, are called to live differently from those around us?

3. The commitments listed in this chapter are costly. Why do you think they were willing to do things that required some kind of sacrifice?

In context, we've seen how God provided for them to rebuild Jerusalem's walls (6:15-16) and then they gathered to hear from the Law of Moses (ch. 8). As they heard it read, they responded with humility and confession of sin (ch. 9) as they remembered God's character. This fresh encounter with God's nature, revealed through God's Word, is what stirs their hearts to align their lives with God's ways, even at a cost.

Application: What sacrifices do you think Christians should make that others would not choose to make? What motivates us to make them?

4. Verses 32-39 express the people's commitment to support "the house of our God," which signifies a recommitment to worship. How would you summarize what they are obligating themselves to do?

They give financially. They give supplies (e.g., wood). They offer sacrifices from the first and best of their provisions, which are used to help provide for those who are tasked with the responsibilities of ministering in the Temple. In other words, the people are to give of their resources toward the community's worship. The Levites and priests are able to minister because the people are all a part of it. In this way, individuals make individual sacrifices that bless the community of God's people.

Application: What obligations do you think our worship requires of us?

5. *Application:* Take time to pray together, asking God to stir up our own hearts to obligate ourselves to lives of faithfully following Jesus even as it costs us to do so.