

Repentance: 'The Doorway to Grace'

Nehemiah 9

Pastor Joshua Brooks

Ice Breaker: Tell a story from your childhood about a time when you tried to get away with doing something you weren't supposed to do.

BIG IDEA: God designed confession and repentance to be the doorway through which we enter back into a life that is blessed by Him.

Digging Deeper:

- 1) Read Nehemiah 9. Make a list of the words that Nehemiah uses throughout this chapter to describe God's faithfulness to Israel. What does God's faithfulness (amidst Israel's disobedience) say about God's character?
- 2) Make a list of the words that Nehemiah uses throughout this chapter to describe Israel's faithlessness to God. What does Israel's faithlessness (amidst God's faithfulness) say about the human condition?
- 3) Pastor Joshua summarized Israel's story this way:
 - Chapter 1 – God rescues His people
 - Chapter 2 – They turn back to their old ways
 - Chapter 3 – God hands His people over to their enemies
 - Chapter 4 – They realize their sin and cry out to God for mercy
 - Chapter 5 – God rescues His people

➔ Can you relate any chapters of your story to Israel's story? How so?
- 4) Is there one area of your life where you are especially mindful of the gap between how you should be responding to God's goodness and how you're actually living? Confess it to one another. And then spend time praying for each other – both for forgiveness – and for the Holy Spirit's power to live in a way that appropriately reflects God's goodness to you.