

Responding to God's Grace

Nehemiah 10

Pastor Joshua Brooks

Ice Breaker: Describe a time when someone did something so nice for you that it caught you by surprise. What was your response?

BIG IDEA: Nehemiah 10 involves a call for Israel to obey the specific commands of the covenant with God, but this part of the Story only comes AFTER they've experienced God's amazing grace.

The Story of Scripture is: Grace of God → Covenant with God → Obedience to God

Digging Deeper:

- 1) Read Nehemiah 10:30. Pastor Joshua made the point that the goal of this law was not the "purity" of Israel's race, but the preservation of Israel's faith. Why would this command about marriage be so critical to Israel remaining faithful to God? What relevance do you think this command has for followers of Jesus today?
- 2) Read Nehemiah 10:31. What impact would this command have had on the economics of the day? In what ways is keeping Sabbath (today) an act of trust in God? What are some of the temptations that stand between you and building Sabbath into your life?
- 3) Read Nehemiah 10:32-33 & v35-39. What were some of the specific ways that the people of Israel were being called to surrender their finances to God? How is tithing (today) an act of trusting God?
- 4) Read Nehemiah 10:34. In addition to tithing and mandated offerings, there were also "sacrificial contributions" that were needed to keep the worship fires burning. Why do you think God is so pleased with worship that involves personal sacrifice? What are some "sacrificial contributions" that you could bring to Sunday morning to keep the worship fires burning brightly at WFMC?