

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – June 14, 2020

Theme: Nehemiah: A Vessel of Restoration

Topic: Our Commitment to God

Main Text: Nehemiah 10:1, 28-39

Key verse: Acts 2:42 *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: A covenant is a binding agreement which cannot be broken except within the terms of the agreement. All through Scripture, God is seen initiating covenants with various individuals and groups. Examples include Abraham (Genesis 12 & 15), Moses (Exodus 24:1-18), David (2 Samuel 7:1-17). God’s covenants are hinged on His power, integrity, and faithfulness. But God’s covenant people always had a part to play, albeit limited. So, we find instances like with King Josiah (2 Kings 23:3), King Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29:10) and Ezra (Ezra 10:3) where the people in a spirit of revival bound themselves to obey God’s word. During Nehemiah’s time, a similar revival spirit moved the people of Israel to bind themselves in writing, to obey God (Nehemiah 9:38). Clergy and laity, young and old swore this oath; and their commitment was to obey the Law of God as handed down through Moses (Nehemiah 10:28-29).

1. **(a) Compare and contrast the covenant King Josiah made (2 Kings 23:1-3) and the one the people made in Nehemiah 9:38; 10:28. What are some possible lessons? (b) What can we learn from the people’s commitment to obey God’s written Law (Nehemiah 10:28 – 29) rather than some new ‘revelation’ to fit with the times? (c) As people in the dispensation of grace, what should be the basis of our commitment to God?**

In drawing up the terms of their covenant with God, the people did not make up their own. Neither did they ask God for new guidelines to suit their present situation; nor did they make their obedience conditional to God fulfilling certain provisos. They simply vowed to align their lives with what God had handed down through Moses. And everyone who bound himself or herself in this covenant knew exactly what they were committing to, as we read, *‘... Their wives, sons, daughters, and everyone who is capable of understanding also took an oath’* (Nehemiah 10:28).

2. **(a) Let participants read Nehemiah 10:30 – 39 and identify the areas of life which the people were rededicating to God. (b) In Luke 14:26 Jesus stated that one must be ready to hate one’s own life to be able to fully follow Him. How practical is it to fully obey God in the areas of relationship/finances/work/business without seemingly hating oneself? (c) Let one or two participants share any instances where they literally had to hate self for the sake of obeying God in any of these areas**

One of the characteristics of the early church was their commitment to the word of God and to fellowship both in the temple and from house to house. (see Acts 2:42 – 47). There is energy from being part of a community of persons in shared commitment. No wonder the Holy Spirit admonishes us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together; rather that we should exhort one another, especially because the end is near (Hebrews 10:25). So, in Nehemiah 10:28-38, virtually every verse had the word ‘We.’

3. **(a) Let one or two participants share any instances where corporate worship/fellowship helped them stay committed to God either in marriage, business, etc (b) As you think of the different areas of life (as listed in Q.2) above, which areas do you feel a need to bring into closer alignment to the word of God? Who can you invite to walk with you on that journey?**

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, You have commanded us to keep Your word diligently. Help us to be faithful in obeying all Your commands. Grant grace to us so we might throw off every entanglement and be fully committed to you, in Jesus name, Amen.*