

Nehemiah Principles of Success – Successful Worship

Nehemiah 8-9 – Message Discussion Guide

Connect

- What do you think worship will be like in heaven? What will likely be some of the most striking differences in how we worship today?

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Nehemiah 8:1-8.
 - The focus of these verses is the Scripture. The people and the leaders did eleven things (eleven actions or verbs) with God’s word. See if you can identify all eleven actions. (Hint: Action #1, Ezra BROUGHT the book in verse one. Action #11, the people understood the meaning of the words of the book at the end of verse eight.)
- Read Psalm 63:1.
 - Brainstorm as many reasons for worship or benefits of worship you can think of.
- Read Matthew 15:8-9.
 - What does it mean to worship with your lips but still have your hearts far away from God?
 - What is the remedy to the “bad worship” described in this passage?
- Read Psalm 24:3-4 and Psalm 119:18.
 - What are some ways a person can prepare for worship?
 - What should be the attitude of a heart prepared for worship?
- Read Amos 8:11 and 2 Timothy 4:2-3.
 - What does Amos mean when he speaks of a famine of hearing the words of the Lord?
 - What does Paul mean when he says that people will have an itch to hear what they want to hear?
 - What should churches do to keep this from happening? How can 2 Timothy 4:2 guide churches?
 - What should individual Christians do to keep this from happening?

Respond

- What advice would you give someone who says, “I just don’t get much out of worship?”
- What can you do to make your worship more honoring of the Lord?

Bonus for Thinkers

- Read Nehemiah 8:6; Psalm 32:11; Psalm 41:1; Ephesians 5:18-19; 1 Timothy 2:8. Based on these verses, what is the proper way to show enthusiasm in worship?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

<u>Day</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
Monday (9/30)	Nehemiah 6:1-19
Tuesday (10/1)	John 1:1-34
Wednesday (10/2)	John 1:35 - John 2:25
Thursday (10/3)	John 3:1-36
Friday (10/4)	John 4:1-45

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (9/30) — Nehemiah 6:1-19

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

Tuesday (10/1) — John 1:1-34

- In 1:3, we learn that nothing has been made that was not made by Jesus. What are a couple of created things that amaze you most? Take a minute and praise God for his power and creativity. Could you challenge yourself to pause and do this exercise four more times today? Praise the Lord all day!
- In 1:7-8, we learn that John was to bear witness about the light, which is Jesus. In Matthew 5 we are told that we too have been given the responsibility to shine the light of Jesus into the world. What are one or two specific ways you can do that today? How do you need to pray for the Lord to help you do that?
- John 1:10 says Jesus was in the world, but the world didn’t know him. That is still true today! Think about your school, workplace, neighborhood, family. How would those places be different if more people there knew Jesus?

Wednesday (10/2) — John 1:35 – 2:25

- In 1:36-39, two men who would later become Disciples of Christ were introduced to Jesus and got to spend an entire day with him. What would be two questions you would ask if you could spend a day with Jesus just walking around the lake? Write those questions down and earnestly ask the Lord to reveal the answer over the next few days or weeks.
- In 2:15, we see a side of Jesus that surprises us. Jesus has a whip and is running people and animals out of the temple. This is contrasted by how we will see Jesus respond to a woman caught in adultery in a few chapters. He will speak kindly to her and offer forgiveness. What do you think is the difference? Why does Jesus react more strongly to religious sinners than just plain sinners? What does this say about some of your religious practices?
- In 1:48 we see in Jesus’ conversation with Nathanael that Jesus knows everyone’s past. In 2:23-25 we see that Jesus knows the future of the commitment of the new “believers” in Jerusalem. How does it make you feel that Jesus loves us even though he knows our past and our future? Spend a minute thanking him for his love.

Thursday (10/3) — John 3:1-36

- Nicodemus was a well-known Jewish religious leader. The Bible points out that when he wanted to go see Jesus, he did so under the cover of darkness. It seems he didn’t want anyone to see him associate with Jesus. Why do you think people are often like that? Are there any ways you are ashamed of Jesus? Do you hesitate to pray or speak of Jesus in public?
- In 3:19-21 we see that people reject Jesus because he is the light, and light exposes sin. Are there any dark places in your life where sin hides? Shine the light of Jesus into those places by confessing your sin to him. What are two practical steps you can take to keep those places from becoming dark again?
- John the Baptist says in 3:27 that if anyone has great success or influence it is because God has blessed them with it. What are some successes in your life that you are failing to give God the credit and praise for? Praise God right now for them.

Friday (10/4) — John 4:1-45

- We learn in 4:7-9 that Jesus did not allow racial or cultural barriers to keep him from ministering to others. Are there people in your weekly routine that you do not minister to because of racial or cultural barriers? How can you honor Jesus and minister to those people in this next week?
- At the end of 4:23, we learn that the Father is seeking people to worship him. That can mean two things. He wants more people to worship him, and he wants those who worship him to worship him more. Why do you think the Father desires worship? How can you worship him more?
- In the beginning of 4:39, we see that a revival has broken out in the town where Jesus had stopped. In the second half of the same verse, we learn the cause of the revival. What was that cause? How could you contribute to a revival breaking out in your town?