

THE WAY BACK TO GOD

NEHEMIAH 9

I. The way back begins with a knowledge of God that leads to _____ . (vv. 1-5)

And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the Lord their God. vv. 2-3

► **CONFESSION** means accepting God's truth and _____ your offense.

II. Confession of sin leads to repentance of our _____ from God. (vv. 6-31)

"Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands." v. 30

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

God's greatness in creation,
covenant and deliverance (vv. 6-15)
God's grace (v. 17b)
God's mercies (vv. 19-25)
God's discipline and salvation (v. 27)
God's deliverance (v. 28b)

ISRAEL'S WAYWARDNESS

The people harden their hearts
(vv. 16-17a)
The people's idolatry (v. 18)
The people's disobedience (v. 26)
The people's evil (v. 28a)
The people's stiff necks (v. 29)

"Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God." v. 31

► **REPENTANCE** of waywardness requires _____ to keep you on track with God.

III. Repentance of our waywardness leads to a _____ to God. (vv. 32-38)

"Yet you have been righteous in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly." ... "Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests." vv. 33, 38

HEARTWORK

I **CONFESS** my sin of _____
as I know it offends my God and hinders my fellowship with Him and others.

I **REPENT** of my waywardness and will ask _____
to hold me accountable to walking with God.

I **COMMIT** to _____
in order to take my next step to draw near to God.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

► **COMMITMENT** to God _____ the Lord's loyalty to you.

REBUILDING

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

HOME GROUP DISCUSSION

1. During what times in your life have you realized you needed to come back to God? What caused the realization?

2. Read Nehemiah chapter 9. On the sermon notes under point II is a table listing Israel's waywardness in this chapter. What difference is there between what Israel's ancestors did, what Nehemiah's people were doing, and what we do now? Why is that important?

3. The table also lists God's faithfulness. During your own cycles of disobedience, what memories do you have of God's care even during those times?

4. No matter what sin we are caught up in, there is always a way back because of the phrase "**BUT GOD.**" List all these "**BUT GOD**" responses to Israel's sins in this chapter. How does each show God's character?

5. How do those "**BUT GOD**" responses apply to your own situation? How does that change your outlook?

6. Someone has said that *in confession we discover a greater freedom to tell the truth about ourselves*. Take some time alone to pray over and fill out the HEARTWORK section of the sermon notes this week. Tell the truth about yourself. What do you need to confess and repent of? What action do you need to commit to? Sign and date the form, then make a plan to follow through.

There's more encouragement in the following verses:

Exodus 34:6

Numbers 14:18

Psalms 86:15

Psalms 103:8

Psalms 145:8

Joel 2:13

Jonah 4:2

"Whenever you see sin or failure in your life, immediately look by faith to Christ and seek His forgiveness, and keep on looking to Him. The more you look at yourself, the more discouraged you will become. Focus on His perfections, not your own imperfections."

WARREN WIERSBE

"Nothing will make us so charitable and tender to the faults of others, as, by self-examination, thoroughly to know our own."

FRANCOIS FENELON

"It does not spoil your happiness to confess your sin. The unhappiness is in not making the confession."

CHARLES SPURGEON

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of *The Source* at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. They're your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.

THE MARCH DATE NIGHT EXPERIENCE ARRIVES THIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10. Who's ready for a date night? We put these experiences together every month to give you an opportunity to set aside some time for connecting over a meal, fun, conversation and prayer time together. All the details for the March date, including a new recipe, activity, discussion starter and prayer prompt, will be available at www.ccbcfamily.org/events starting this Wednesday, March 10.

TAKE THE WELLNESS SURVEY AND HELP US PREP FOR A NEW SERIES. Along with spiritual health, your mental, physical and emotional wellness are incredibly important to us. Our teaching team is prepping for an upcoming series on those topics, and we'd love your feedback as we plan. Take the anonymous survey at www.ccbcfamily.org/wellness and let us know how we can best serve you with these topics.

HONOR OR REMEMBER A LOVED ONE THIS EASTER. At Easter we celebrate the new life we have in Jesus and the hope of resurrection. With that in mind, we're inviting you to honor those who have played a role in your faith and remember those who have passed away. Go to www.ccbcfamily.org/easter to fill out the form. All names submitted will be printed in this year's Easter worship folder.

REGISTER FOR "NAVIGATE," THE UPCOMING WORLDVIEW CONFERENCE. Christ Chapel is hosting a worldview conference on Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10 for the entire CCBC family! We want to help you build a biblical worldview so that you can address the major questions of life and faith that you interact with daily. Whether you're a parent or grandparent answering the questions of kids, or an adult or teenager trying to address your own, this conference will help you build the framework to do that work with God's Word. Learn more about what we've planned, who's teaching and registration at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

PARTNER WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ON SUNDAYS. We have loved welcoming back more and more families to Children's Ministry on Sundays, and we're not done yet! We're looking for leaders to partner with us. Will you help us open more classrooms so kiddos can learn about the God who loves them? Email the Children's Ministry team at children@christchapelbc.org to sign up.

READ THROUGH PSALMS WITH US. Leading up to Easter, we're reading through the psalms together to remember God is with us in the ongoing challenges of this year. You can join us this week—just look for the plan, "God Is With Us," on the Christ Chapel app.

HERE'S A QUICK REMINDER: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 14. We'll have the coffee ready—see you after we all spring forward next weekend!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—just text "CCBCFW" to 77977 to get started.

