

The People & God's Word

SCRIPTURE - Nehemiah 9:1-37

ACTIVITY MATERIALS:

Cut five slips of paper per child (about the size of a note card).

INTRODUCTION:

ASK: Can you think of a time you did something you should not have done? How did it feel? Can you think of a time where you told God about it and asked for forgiveness?

SAY: When we disobey God, or sin, it leaves us feeling awful. But because of Jesus' sacrifice and God's mercy we don't have to stay feeling awful. We are able to confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness.

Remember last week, in Nehemiah 8, the Israelites heard the Word of God read and realized their sin? Now we are going to read about the people's confession for their sin.

ACTIVITY PART 1:

Give each child a stack of paper slips (around 5). Instruct/help each child write one sin they have committed on each slip of paper.

SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 9:1-37

The Israelites were mourning, they felt so bad about their sin that they were wearing sackcloths and putting dirt on their own heads. They gathered together to confess their sins. While they were gathered they read from God's Word as an act of confession and worship. Then leaders and the Levites cried out to God. They praised God for who He is. They described Him and prayed to Him: You are the only God, the creator of the heavens, the creator of the earth, the one who chose Abram (Abraham), the one who saw his heart, the one who made and kept promises, the one who saw the Israelites enslaved in Egypt and rescued them, the one who parted the Red Sea, the one who is constant, the one who led the Israelites in the wilderness, the one who gave the 10 commandments, the one who gave bread from heaven and water from a rock, the one who faithfully loved even when the Israelite people were proud and stubborn. Even when the Israelite people refused to remember Your goodness and faithfulness You didn't abandon them. Even when they worshiped other gods they made You did not abandon them but had compassion on them guiding them as they went. God provided for the Israelites and they lacked nothing. God gave kingdoms and subdued nations his people prospered but his people, the Israelites also rebelled and disobeyed. When they did this You gave them over to their sin (if that's what you want then you can have it) but the

FIRST BAPTIST BELLE CHASSE KIDS

people weren't happy and cried out and You answered. This happened again and again and You still answered because You are a good and compassionate God. Now the God who has kept His faithful promises is with us today. He is faithful and we are not. Here we are slaves in the land You gave to our ancestors because of our sin.

Q: Why were the people wearing sackcloth and throwing dirt on themselves?

A: *They were mourning their sin (they felt bad).*

Q: How did they realized they had sinned?

A: *They listened to God's Word and it guided their heart.*

Q: When they prayed did they just say what they were sorry for?

A: *No, they praised God and recounted His faithfulness.*

Q: What are some of the ways God has been faithful to the Israelites?

A: *Answers will vary, but here are some examples: guiding Abraham, freeing the Israelites from Egypt, parting the Red Sea, etc.*

Q: Did the Israelite people always appreciate and/or obey God?

A: *No they often acted out of pride and did what they wanted.*

Q: Did God abandon the Israelite people when they sinned?

A: *No. Even when He gave them over to their sins He still came when they cried out to Him.*

Q: How has God been faithful to you?

A: *Answers will vary.*

Q: Have you sinned against God?

A: *The truth is we all have and do but the good news is that we don't have to stay in our sin because we have a good and faithful God who will forgive us and we can be forgiven through the blood of Christ Jesus.*



ACTIVITY PART 2:

Instruct the children to flip over their slips of paper with their sins written on them and write 5 good and/or faithful things about God.

DISCUSSION/CLOSING:

God is good and faithful. He loves us even when we mess up and we mess up a lot. When we mess up we don't have to stay in our mistakes instead we have the gift to confess our sins to God and be forgiven. How cool is that!? It is important that we take time each day to confess our sins (yes because we sin everyday) but we don't need to just list of our mistakes we need to use that time to praise God for how good and faithful He is.

PRAYER TIME:

Take a few moments to thank God for his blessings. Pray for your family. Pray for our church. Pray for our country and its leaders. Pray that God will guide you and show you were you have sinned against Him so that you may confess and be forgiven.