



MARCH 8, 2026

THE PEOPLE WORSHIPED GOD

NEHEMIAH 7-13

CHRIST CONNECTION

God's people remembered all He had done, and they promised to be faithful. God is gracious and compassionate. All along, God has been faithful to people who are unfaithful. We experience God's grace and compassion in Jesus, who gave His life so we can receive mercy and life forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What is the Bible about? The Bible is the story of God's plan to save people through Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

John 20:31

PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The second half of the book of Nehemiah shows a remarkable rededication of the Israelites to God and His law. As Ezra read from the book of the Law, the people were confronted with their sin and overwhelmed by God's faithfulness toward them despite their unfaithfulness. Nehemiah 9 tells us that the people stood and listened to the book of the Law for many hours. As they listened, they were reminded of the history of God's people. They recognized their ancestors' sinful patterns of unfaithfulness to God's covenant, and yet God was always faithful. They heard that, amid their rebellion, God always called them back.

In Nehemiah 9:17, we are reminded of a description of God that is found throughout the Old Testament. Nehemiah 9:17 says, "But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love, and you did not abandon them." This description of God throughout the Old Testament reflected His unwavering commitment to Israel despite their repeated rebellion. Echoes of this description are found in Exodus 34, Psalm 103, and Jonah 4. As God's people declared this truth, they understood how God remained faithful to them, just as He had been faithful in the past. And because God's character is unchanging, His faithfulness remains true today.

One of the most beautiful descriptions of God in this passage is found in the word gracious. The Hebrew word used here conveys the idea of unmerited favor, such as a king stooping down to give favor to one of his subjects or an adult stooping down to comfort a child in need.

This concept of God's graciousness, however, finds its fullest expression in Jesus Christ coming to earth. Philippians 2 reminds us that Jesus did not consider equality with God something to be held on to; rather He descended to us. Jesus stooped down to our level to grant us something that we never deserved. Point kids to God's unchanging character and His faithfulness to His people. Help kids see how God's faithfulness to His people was a part of His gracious plan to send Jesus to into the world.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

MEMORY VERSE

...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's Memory Verse folder to review the verse with the kids.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on March 22!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

THE PEOPLE WORSHIPED GOD

After Ezra read the law, the people gathered together. They fasted, wore sackcloth, and put dust on their heads. They confessed their sins, read from the book of the law of the Lord, and worshiped all day. The Levites led the people in a prayer, saying:

“Blessed be your name, God. You are the only God. You created the heavens with all their stars, the earth and all that is in it, the seas and all that is in them.”

As they prayed, the people remembered how God chose Abram and changed his name to Abraham. God made a covenant with Abraham and gave the Promised Land to his descendants. God kept His promise because He is righteous.

The people also praised God for rescuing His people from slavery in Egypt. God parted the Red Sea and led His people by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. God came down to His people at Mount Sinai and gave them His good commands. All through their wilderness journey, God provided for His people and told them to go to the Promised Land. In the people's prayer, they remembered how their ancestors did not obey God. Their ancestors made idols and forgot God's works. But God did not leave them. He is forgiving, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in faithful love.

God's people prayed: “You gave our ancestors the land, giving them victory over the people who lived there. But they were disobedient and ignored your prophets. So, you handed them over to your enemies, who oppressed them. But in your compassion, you did not destroy or abandon your people.”

Then the people said, “Here we are today, slaves in the land you gave our ancestors. We are in trouble.” The people recognized they needed God, and so they promised to follow the law of God and to obey all His commands. Then the leaders and some of the people stayed in Jerusalem, and everyone else went to live in the nearby cities. Later, the people gathered to dedicate the wall around Jerusalem. They celebrated with music and gave thanks to God. Then God's law was read to the people, and they were reminded to keep His commands.

CHRIST CONNECTION: God's people remembered all He had done, and they promised to be faithful. God is gracious and compassionate. All along, God has been faithful to people who are unfaithful. We experience God's grace and compassion in Jesus, who gave His life so we can receive mercy and life forever.

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

MAIN ACTIVITY

Give each kid one of the provided memory booklet templates and markers. Allow kids to decorate and color the template as they want. Follow the instructions/example for putting the booklet together. (*Younger kids may need assistance.*)

Tell kids that when we remind ourselves of what God has done for us, it helps our hearts want to worship Him! Challenge kids to take this booklet home and spend time filling it out throughout the week.

CONNECT THE DOTS



God's people looked back and were reminded of all the things God had done for them. They remembered how God had saved them from slavery, how He chose them to be His special people, how He defeated their enemies and blessed them, etc. Remembering these things helped them to see how loving and faithful God is. Knowing His love and faithfulness led them to worship God!

BIBLE SKILLS

Split your class into groups of three or four and provide each group with a Bible, pencil, and piece of paper. Write the following events on one side of the white board and the following verses on the other side:

Events:

- God called Abraham
- God parted the Red Sea
- God gave His people the law
- God provided manna in the wilderness
- God gave His people the promised land
- God dwelt among His people in the temple

Verses:

- Judges 2:1
- Genesis 12:1
- 1 Kings 8:11
- Deuteronomy 8:3
- Exodus 31:18
- Exodus 14:15-16

Challenge the groups to look up the verses and match each of them to one of the events. Finish the activity by reviewing the verses and events, and how they showed God's faithfulness to His people.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. In the people's prayer, they remembered what God had done for them. When you pray, do you praise God for what He's done for you? How?
2. Why is it important to learn and remember what God has done?
3. In their prayer, the people recognized their need for God. Why do we all need God?
4. The people promised to be faithful to God. Do you think they would keep this promise? Why or why not?
5. The people promised to obey God's commands after remembering all He had done for them. What's one way you can show obedience to God this week?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!