

Nehemiah 13

For SGs with parents:

- Why do you think your children disobey your instructions?
- How can you help (or "make") your children obey?

For SGs with non-parents/employees/students:

- Why do we disobey our parents/managers/teachers even when we know they are right?
- In what instances do you obey them even when you don't understand why?

1. What happened soon after Nehemiah was no longer governing Jerusalem? (see vv. 4-10)

2. What "evil" thing did Eliashib the priest do while Nehemiah was away? Why was it "evil"? Why do you think he did this?

3. What happened to the people's earlier vows to care for the temple? (v. 10)

4. What made Sabbath reform necessary again? (vv. 15-16) What did Nehemiah do regarding this problem? (vv. 17-22) Why was "desecrating" the Sabbath day such a serious matter?

5. We find four short prayers of Nehemiah in chapter 13. Find the common phrase in 3 of these prayers found in v. 14, 22b, 29 and 31. Why do you suppose Nehemiah prayed like this? Do you think his main point was to ask God for a reward or repayment for what he was doing for God's people?

6. What did Nehemiah do to those who had married “foreign” women in vv. 23-28? Why do you suppose a good leader would treat people in this manner?

7. In rebuking these men who married foreign women, Nehemiah referred to King Solomon. What was Solomon’s real problem according to 1 Kings 11: 1-4?

8. Look at Nehemiah’s prayer in v. 29. What do you think of this prayer against Eliashib the high priest, his son Joiada, and one of his grandson?

9. Had we concluded our journey through the book of Nehemiah at chapter 10, we would have ended our study on a high note. However, that is not how God the Holy Spirit chose to end this book. Were you surprised at how easily and quickly God’s people reverted back to their old ways and sinned against the Lord again despite the vows they made in chapter 10? What were some of the possible reasons for this state of affairs?

10. What is the most important lesson you have learned from Nehemiah?

11. What life application would you like God to favorably “remember”? How can your small group help you remember to follow through on that life application?