



God's Law Brings the Jews to Repentance

Nehemiah 8–10



LESSON GOAL

Students will respond to God's Word by turning away from sin and humbly depending on Christ.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Describe Ezra's reading of God's Word to the people.
- Explain how the people responded to God's Word.
- Summarize the people's prayer from Nehemiah 9.
- Tell what covenant the people made.

KEY VERSE

"And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God" (Nehemiah 9:3).

APPLICATION

- Rejoice that God has given us His Word.
- Mourn when you see your disobedience.
- Repent of your sins and commit to obey.
- Trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children" (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

For nearly 80 years, the Lord blessed the Jewish exiles who had returned to Israel. First, He moved Cyrus and Darius to help them rebuild the temple. Then He moved Artaxerxes to beautify the temple and to send Ezra to teach the people the Law. Next, the Lord put it into Nehemiah's heart to rebuild the wall. The Lord continued to glorify Himself among the surrounding peoples as they saw His character in His care for His people. But still, Israel persisted in rebellion and wickedness. After initial reforms, they apparently either rejected or ignored Ezra's teaching. It wasn't until after Ezra had been in Israel for 13 years that the people finally were humbled by God's Word. When they came to be taught God's Word, they mourned over their wickedness, rejoiced over God's faithfulness, repented of their sin, and committed to obedience.

The People Hear God's Word (Neh. 8)

Less than a week after the wall was finished, the Israelites responded to God's blessing by requesting to hear His Word. They asked Ezra to bring and read the Law of Moses to them. The "assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding" gathered on the Feast of Trumpets (Lev. 23:23–25; Num. 29:1–6), the first day of the seventh month in 445 B.C. (Neh. 8:1–2). With the people gathered below, Ezra and 13 other men stood on a wooden platform from which the people could hear the Law being read (8:4–5). Ezra, along with several Levites, not only read the Law but also "helped the people to understand the Law" by explaining (and maybe translating) it for them (8:7–8).

From "morning until midday," the people eagerly listened to God's Word being read and explained (Neh. 8:3). When Ezra opened the Law before the people, they stood in respect. When Ezra praised God, the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" and worshiped the Lord. The people continued to listen with this attentive, humble attitude throughout the day. As more of the Law was read and explained, they couldn't help but weep as they realized how wicked they had been (8:9).

Although tears often may be a right response to sin, Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levites commanded the people not to weep. They explained that the day was "holy to the LORD" (Neh. 8:9). The reading of the Law had taken place during the Feast of Trumpets, a special Sabbath set aside for offering sacrifices to God. Although weeping would come later, on this day the people were commanded to enjoy a feast and not to sorrow, for the joy of the Lord was their strength (8:10). While the people had become aware of their wickedness, the Law also revealed God's grace. The people could rejoice in both the character of God and the fact that although their sin was great, they still could be restored to God. The Law had not only curses for disobedience but also blessings for obedience. If the people

would humble themselves unto obedience, they still could enjoy God's blessings. The people also had reason to "rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them" (8:12).

The next day, the leaders, priests, and Levites again came to Ezra to understand more of God's Law (Neh. 8:13). From the Law, they learned that Israel was commanded to live in "booths" (temporary dwellings) during the Feast of Tabernacles, from the fifteenth to the twenty-third of the seventh month (Lev. 23:33–43; Deut. 16:13–15). These booths were a reminder that Israel had dwelt in temporary shelters when God brought them out of Egypt (Lev. 23:43). Knowing the Lord's will, the leaders proclaimed that the people should gather branches and make booths in Jerusalem for the feast (Neh. 8:14–16). The Lord commanded in Deuteronomy 16:11 that the people should "rejoice before the LORD" during the feast. The people obeyed, and "there was very great gladness" as for the first time "since the days of Joshua" (8:17) they celebrated the feast as God intended. Throughout the feast, the people continued to listen to the Book of the Law of God being read (8:18).

The People Confess Their Sins (Neh. 9)

Although their hearts were convicted by the reading of God's Word, the people obeyed God and rejoiced throughout the feast. Two days after the feast ended, "the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads" (Neh. 9:1). The time for confession had come. After three hours of listening to God's Law, the people spent three hours confessing their sins and worshiping the Lord (9:3). They were unified in their confession and even began dealing with sin by separating themselves from all foreigners (9:2). While all the people confessed their sin, the Levites led in the worship (9:4–5). The first group led the people in crying out to God (9:4), and the second group led them in praising Him (9:5).

Nehemiah 9:6–37 records the people's prayer of praise and confession. They first praised the Lord for His creation and sustenance of the universe (9:5–6) and then for His choice of Abraham and His covenant with him (9:7–8). Next, they praised Him for delivering Israel from slavery (9:9–12), giving them His Law (9:13–14), and taking care of them in the wilderness (9:15). The only thing that interrupted the people's praise was time for confession over Israel's rebellion and idolatry in the desert (9:16–18). Even though the people had been rebellious, the Lord had been gracious and merciful. The people again praised Him for leading, protecting, and providing for them until they reached the Promised Land and for giving them the land (9:19–25). Confession and praise were intermingled as the people reflected on Israel's history in the Promised Land. While they confessed the continual faithlessness of their fathers, they praised God for His faithfulness and mercy (9:26–31). After praising "the great, the mighty, and awesome God, who keeps covenant and mercy" (9:32), the people brought their present circumstances before the Lord. Since the days of the Assyrians (9:32) to the return from exile (9:36–37), Israel had been oppressed by foreign nations. Although they looked to God's mercy for relief, they also again confessed that God was just in all that had happened to them (9:33). Israel was completely guilty before God and had no defense (9:34–35). Their only hope was God's merciful character.

The People Commit to Obedience (Neh. 10)

Sincere praise and confession always are accompanied by obedience. The people expressed their commitment to obedience by making and writing a covenant to obey God (Neh. 9:38). Leaders of the priests, Levites, and various families ratified

the covenant with their seal (Neh. 10:1–27). While only representatives of the population sealed the covenant, the rest of the community who had committed to obeying the Law of God “joined with their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse and an oath to walk in God’s Law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord” (10:28–29). The people swore to obey God’s Law and were willing to be cursed for disobedience. Whatever judgment the righteous Lord sent on His people for breaking the oath would be deserved. Nehemiah 10:30–39 includes various commitments the Israelites made to obey God’s Law and care for His temple. The people were not content to profess a general willingness to obey but specifically listed areas where obedience was a struggle. Many of the commitments made in 10:30–39 demonstrated willingness to obey the Lord in financial matters, a particular challenge due to the economic difficulties and oppression the Israelites faced.

Conclusion

When the Israelites heard God’s Word explained to them, they both mourned over their sin and rejoiced over God’s goodness. Hearing God’s Law convicted them of their failure to obey. In brokenness, they praised God for His justness in punishing them and confessed their wickedness in not obeying Him. Although they were willing to obey in the future, they had no hope of being restored to a right relationship with God except by God’s mercy. Sinners today must come to God in the same way. They must respond to His Word by humbly accepting what it says about their sin, praising God for His justness and righteousness in punishing them, and obeying whatever He reveals in His Word. The sinner also must understand that he has no hope of reconciliation with God unless God has mercy on Him. God’s mercy is shown to us only through Jesus Christ. It is only by confessing Christ as Lord and trusting in Him as God’s appointed sacrifice for sin that the sinner has any hope of being forgiven. Christ has died and been resurrected, and believers must remember that the teaching of God’s Word, the confession of sin, and the commitment to obedience must center on the work and lordship of Jesus Christ.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth”
(Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

How did Nehemiah’s brother Hanani describe what it was like in Jerusalem after he had returned?

He said that the people were in great distress and reproach. He also told Nehemiah that the wall of Jerusalem was broken down and that the gates were burned with fire.

What did Nehemiah do when he heard this?

Nehemiah sat down and wept for days. He also fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

What was Nehemiah's job?

Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the king. That meant that before the king drank wine or ate food, Nehemiah would taste it first to make sure that it was safe.

What did the king say after Nehemiah told him why he was sad?

The king asked Nehemiah if there was anything he could do to make the situation in Jerusalem better. God caused the king to be kind to Nehemiah and willing to do whatever Nehemiah asked.

Who were the people who were against Nehemiah?

Two of the enemies of Nehemiah and the Jews were Sanballat (Neh. 4:1) and Tobiah the Ammonite (4:3).

How did the people who were building the wall with Nehemiah respond to the questions and mocking?

The people continued building the wall so that the whole wall was joined together to half its height. They did not stop because of their enemies but persevered because they had "a mind to work" (4:6).

How long did it take to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem?

The wall was completed in 52 days (6:15).

What happened when the enemies of Nehemiah and the builders heard that they had been successful?

When the enemies of Nehemiah and the Jews heard that the wall had been rebuilt, they lost their confidence (6:16).

How had the builders been able to finish the wall?

The builders were able to finish the wall because the "work had been accomplished with the help of our God" (6:16). The Jews had not done it by themselves, but God had helped them.

What did Nehemiah's enemies realize as they watched how quickly the wall was built?

They recognized that this work had been accomplished with God's help (6:16).



Who's Who

What is your family known for? Do you have all girls? All boys? Ten kids? Do you all have red hair? Do you all sing? Do you and your siblings all have first names beginning with the same letter? The Israelites were known for something. They were known for being God's chosen people and for having the Law of Moses to live by. Nehemiah 8:1 says that when the Israelites gathered, they read from the book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had given them. What would you like to be known by?



The Bible Says

Tell the students that every time they hear a teacher say "the Bible says...," they



should stand up. Intentionally say this phrase frequently. During the lesson, explain that the people stood up whenever the Book of the Law was read.

Butcher-Paper Booth

Lay out a long strip of butcher paper, and allow the students to color it or glue palm branches to it. Set the paper on a table, or hang it so that the students can sit under it during snack time, imitating the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles, which Israel celebrated.



Happy and Sad

Have the students think of things that make them happy and things that make them sad. Is there anything that makes them both happy and sad at the same time? There was something that made the Israelites so sad that they cried, but it also made them joyful. What was it? We will find out in today's lesson.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read portions of Nehemiah 8–10.

Introduction

Many people do not realize how important the Bible is and how privileged they are to have it. The people that we will learn about in today's lesson hadn't heard the law of God in a very long time, perhaps never in their whole lives. So when someone read it to them, they wanted to hear more and do what it said they should do. Let's find out what happened.



Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: What did the people ask Ezra to do when they gathered at the square in front of the Water Gate?

Answer: The people asked Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses which the Lord had given to Israel (8:1).

LOQ: What did Ezra do for the people who asked him to bring out the Law of Moses?

Answer: Ezra brought out the Law of God before the assembly (8:2), and he read from it before all the people (8:3).

LOQ: In verse 5, why did all the people stand up?

Answer: Ezra had opened the book of the Law. All the people stood up to show respect for the book and for God.

LOQ: What did the people in verse 7 do as the Law of God was being read?

Answer: Jeshua, Bani, and the others “explained the law to the people” (8:7). They were also translating and explaining it to make it clear for the people to understand (8:8).

LOQ: When the people heard the Law of God read, how did they respond?

Answer: “All the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law.” The people were so sad that they were crying.

LOQ: Why were the people crying?

Answer: The people were crying because they had just heard what the Law of God said they should be doing. The words of the Law were good, but they had not been obeying them.

LOQ: Instead of mourning and weeping, what were the people told to do?

Answer: The people were told to celebrate because the day was holy. Then the people went away and celebrated because they understood what was in the Law of God. The next day, the leaders of the homes gathered to learn more.

LOQ: Although the people were sad because they were aware of their wickedness, what else did they learn about God's character?

Answer: The people were told to rejoice because God is gracious. Although their sin was great, they could rejoice because they could still be restored to God.

LOQ: What did the people learn about their relationship with God?

Answer: They learned that if they humbled themselves in obedience to the Lord, they could enjoy God's blessings.

LOQ: What does verse 14 say they learned? (Hint: look for command words such as *must* or *should*.)

Answer: Verse 14 says that the people learned that “the sons of Israel should live in booths during the feast of the seventh month.”

LOQ: When they learned what they should do, what happened?

Answer: When the men learned that they should live in booths during the feast of the seventh month, they made a proclamation and sent it to all the surrounding cities and Jerusalem, telling them to do what the Law of God said (8:15). After that, the people obeyed the Law of God and made booths for themselves (8:16–17).

LOQ: What did Ezra do from the first day until the last day of the feast?

Answer: Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God daily (8:18). The people wanted to hear as much from the Law of God as they could. When the people heard Ezra read the Law of God, they realized that they were not doing what God wanted. This made them very sad. The next day, when the head of homes gathered to hear more from the Law of God, they learned about the Feast of Booths. This time, they made a decision to obey God and do what His Law said.

LOQ: What did the people do two days after the feast had ended?

Answer: The children of Israel assembled for three hours with sackcloth and ashes to listen to God's Word being read. They spent another three hours confessing their sins before the Lord and worshipping Him.

LOQ: What did the people pray during this time?

Answer: The people praised the Lord for His creation and provision. Then they confessed their sin and Israel's time of rebellion and idolatry in the desert. They asked God for mercy.

LOQ: The people made a promise before the Lord. What did they promise to do?

Answer: The people, priests, the Levites, gatekeepers, singers, servants, and nobles made a vow to obey God's Law and were willing to be cursed if they were disobedient. Whatever judgment the Lord sent upon His people for breaking the oath would be deserved.

Summary

This lesson is about the Law of God. It is so important that it was repeated many times in Nehemiah 8. Not only adults were listening and learning, but young people, too—everyone who could understand was there. When the people learned about what God wanted them to do, they were sad because they hadn't been obedient. But when they heard about the Feast of Booths, they agreed to be obedient and do just as God said in the Law.

Application

How does someone find out about God and His Son, Jesus Christ? How does someone know what God says is a sin or what He wants them to do? People have many, many questions about life—even Christians. There is only one place in the world to find out the right answers to all of life's important questions: in the Bible. Just like the people in this lesson, we all need to hear what God says in His Word. And hearing is not enough; we must obey it, too. If we do not know what the Bible says, how can we know what God wants? We must do as the people in the lesson did: listen to the Word of God and obey it.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Ezra Reads from the Scroll

Instruct one student or teacher to stand up on a chair as Ezra did and read each of the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20. After each commandment is read, have a different student volunteer to explain it (as Ezra's helpers did), and give examples of how the Law would be obeyed in various situations.



Invisible Protection

While the Jews could not see, sense, or feel God's protection over them, He was guarding them at all times. To illustrate this, explain that sunblock protects us from



burning; medications, vaccinations, and vitamins protect us from disease; and insect repellent protects us from unwanted bites. We cannot see or feel these things working, but we can be assured that they are. The Bible promises us that even when we cannot feel, see, or discern it, God is always caring for and protecting us. Nothing can come into our lives that is beyond His love and control.

Instruments in God's Hands

Before the lesson, place on the wall pictures or symbols of various items God used to protect His people. As you teach through the story, take the items down and explain how each was a tool God used to save the Jews. Items could include: a paper scroll (a king's decree), a woman (Esther), a crown (a noble position), a star of David (a queen's nationality), a clock (a timely encounter), a book (a record book), praying hands (the prayers and fasting of God's people), a scepter, a pillow (a sleepless night), a gallows, a king's signet ring, and some swords.

Praise and Worship

Change Me Heart, Oh God

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E

Rejoice in the Lord Always

The B-I-B-L-E

Thy Word

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Trust and Obey

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Three Hours

Materials: copies of the "Three Hours" craft page, brads, scissors, crayons, pencils

Directions: Before class, make a copy of the craft page for each student. Prepare the pages by using a razor to cut along the edge of the clock (from 9 to almost 12, and then from past 12 to 3). During class, give each student a page. Have the students cut off the bottom strip from the page and then cut out the arrows clock hands) and the two strips. Help them use pencils to punch holds through the clock hands, base sheet, and sliders. After the students color and decorate the clock and strips, they can use a brad to assemble them (pushing it through the two hands, the base sheet, and the two sliders). When the sliders, positioned underneath the clock (with the pictures showing through the edge of the clock), are moved three hours, the clock hands will rotate.



Ezra's Scroll

Materials: half-sheets of construction paper (cut lengthwise; two per student), white paper, crayons or markers, scissors, glue or tape

Directions: Remind the students that Ezra read God's Word to the Israelites in Nehemiah 8:1–12. Then tell them that they will be making a scroll as a reminder of God's Holy Word. Have each student draw zigzags or decorative lines across the top and bottom of each piece of construction paper. Then they can roll the pieces into tubes, gluing or taping them closed. They should glue or tape three pieces of white paper together lengthwise and then use crayons or markers to write out a short verse from Nehemiah. (This could be written on the board for them to copy.) They should decorate the passage around the edges. Then they should glue or tape each side of the scroll strip to a tube. The scroll can be rolled up around the tubes. The students can unroll it to read the passage, as Ezra did.



People Respond to God's Word

Materials: copies of the "People Respond to God's Word" craft pages, crayons, glue, scissors

Directions: Give each student a copy of the "People Respond to God's Word" craft pages. Have him color and cut out the ears, mouth, and feet. Next have him glue the pieces to the appropriate part of the other craft page.



"God Moves the Jews to Repentance"

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



Journal Page: "God's Goodness"

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets from the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.

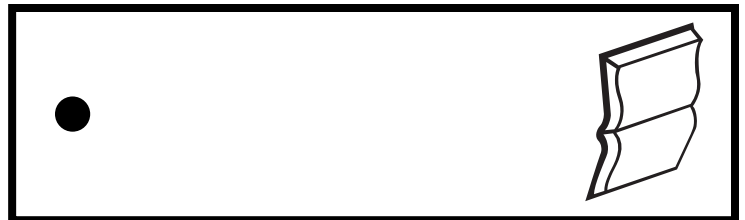
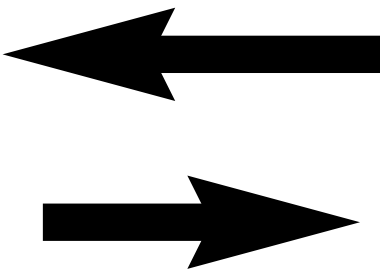
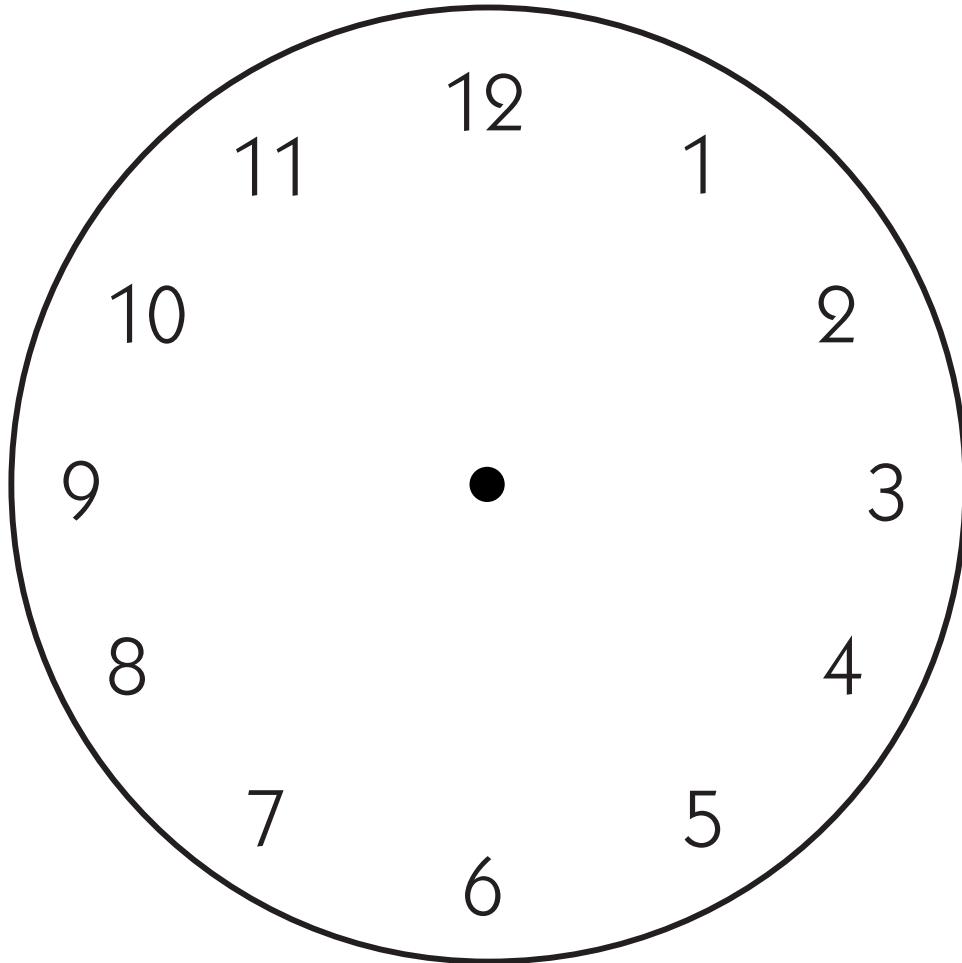


MEMORY VERSE

"Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart" (Psalm 119:34).

Three Hours

“And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God” (Nehemiah 9:3).



People Respond to God's Word

In Nehemiah 8–10, when the people heard
God's Word read with their

glue ear
here

glue ear
here

they responded by confessing their sins with their

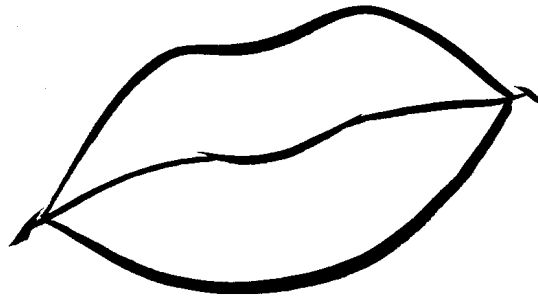
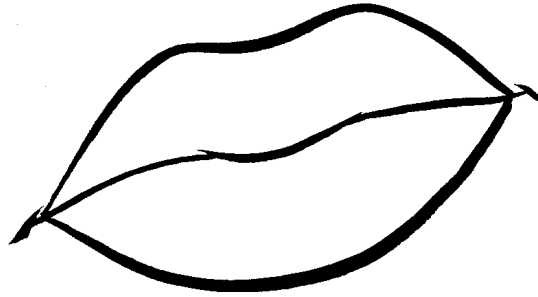
glue mouth here

and obeying God's commands with their actions.

glue foot
here

glue foot
here

People Respond to God's Word



God Brings the Jews to Repentance



Nehemiah 8-10

Name _____

1. What did the people want Ezra to do in Nehemiah 8:1-2? _____
2. Nehemiah 8:7 tells us that the men with Ezra helped the people _____
God's Word.
3. What did the people do when they heard God's Law being read? _____
4. Ezra told the people not to mourn because the " _____
is your strength" (8:10).
5. Nehemiah 9:3 tells us that the people _____. (Circle the correct answer[s].)
built an altar confessed and worshiped God
read God's Law
6. What did the people commit to do in Nehemiah 10:29? _____

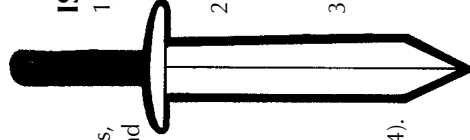
God's Goodness

“And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God” (Nehemiah 9:3).

Do you know that God's word is quick and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword? It can pierce all the way to the thoughts and intents of your heart. That is what happened to the Israelites when Ezra read and explained God's law to them. The words went right to their hearts, and they were sorrowful because of their sins. They agreed with God that they were sinners who deserved judgment. In the columns below, match the Israelites' disobedience to God's goodness to see why they deserved God's judgment.

GOD'S GOODNESS

- 1) God gave them right judgments, true laws, and good statutes and commandments (9:13).
- 2) God gave them deliverers who saved them from the hand of their enemies (9:27).
- 3) God brought them into the Promised Land and gave them kingdoms and nations (9:22-24).



ISRAELITES' DISOBEDIENCE

- 1) After they had rest from their enemies, they did evil against God (9:28).
- 2) They did not heed God's commandment and refused to obey (9:17.)
- 3) They did not serve God in their kingdom or in the rich land that He gave them (9:34-35).

What did the Israelites do when they heard all these things?

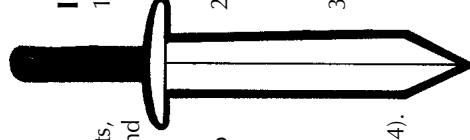
God's Goodness

“And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God” (Nehemiah 9:3).

Do you know that God's word is quick and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword? It can pierce all the way to the thoughts and intents of your heart. That is what happened to the Israelites when Ezra read and explained God's law to them. The words went right to their hearts, and they were sorrowful because of their sins. They agreed with God that they were sinners who deserved judgment. In the columns below, match the Israelites' disobedience to God's goodness to see why they deserved God's judgment.

GOD'S GOODNESS

- 1) God gave them right judgments, true laws, and good statutes and commandments (9:13).
- 2) God gave them deliverers who saved them from the hand of their enemies (9:27).
- 3) God brought them into the Promised Land and gave them kingdoms and nations (9:22-24).



ISRAELITES' DISOBEDIENCE

- 1) After they had rest from their enemies, they did evil against God (9:28).
- 2) They did not heed God's commandment and refused to obey (9:17.)
- 3) They did not serve God in their kingdom or in the rich land that He gave them (9:34-35).

What did the Israelites do when they heard all these things?

Romans 2:4 says that God's goodness brings us to repentance. God is loving and kind to bring us to repentance. When we think about His goodness and realize that we do not deserve it, we should be humbled and brought to repentance.

How has God shown His lovingkindness to you?

How have you responded to His lovingkindness?

Has there been a time that God's Word was like a sword to you? When?

What are some commandments that God has given to you that you have disobeyed?

What should you do?

PRAYER

You can ask Christ to forgive you for the times you have disobeyed. He is faithful and just to forgive your sins. Thank Him for His lovingkindness, and as you are thanking Him, thank Him for teachers who, like Ezra, faithfully read and explain God's Word to you.

Romans 2:4 says that God's goodness brings us to repentance. God is loving and kind to bring us to repentance. When we think about His goodness and realize that we do not deserve it, we should be humbled and brought to repentance.

How has God shown His lovingkindness to you?

How have you responded to His lovingkindness?

Has there been a time that God's Word was like a sword to you? When?

What are some commandments that God has given to you that you have disobeyed?

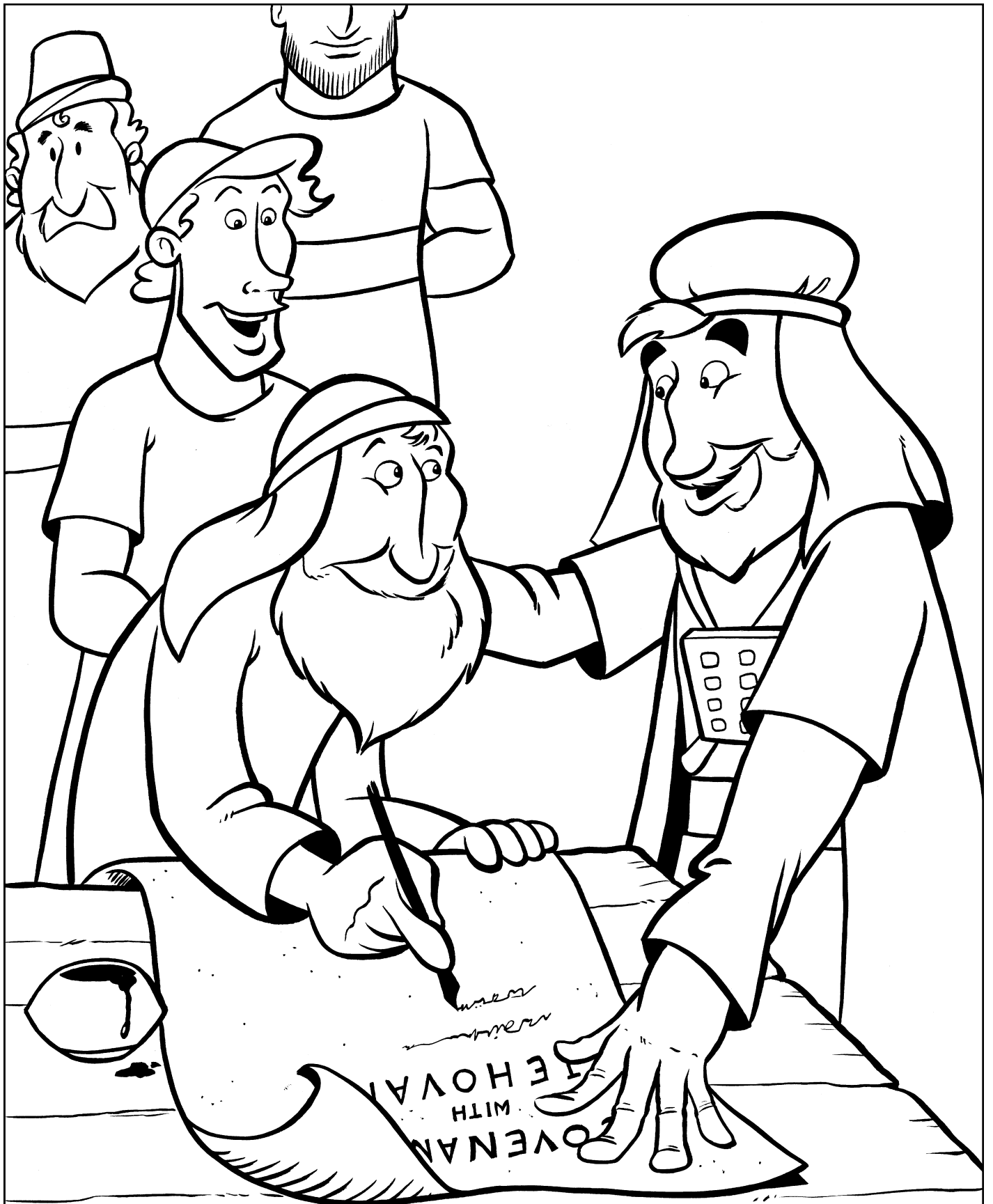
What should you do?

PRAYER

You can ask Christ to forgive you for the times you have disobeyed. He is faithful and just to forgive your sins. Thank Him for His lovingkindness, and as you are thanking Him, thank Him for teachers who, like Ezra, faithfully read and explain God's Word to you.



Ezra read the Law to the people (Ezra 8:1-12).



The Jews made a covenant to obey God's Word (Neh. 10:1-38).

