

Nehemiah 10: Participant Guide

SCRIPTURE READING QUESTIONS

Before diving into the group discussion, consider these four questions as you read the text:

What does this passage say about God, who He is, and what He does (Father, Son, and Spirit)?

What does this passage teach me about me?

What comfort/challenge can I take away from this passage?

How will I respond or live differently because of what I've read?

PART 1: THE FOUNDATION

Loving God's People (The Community Lens)

In Nehemiah 10, the restored community binds themselves together in a solemn covenant, pledging as "One New Family" to support God's house and walk in His law. Authentic community means taking shared responsibility for the health, ministry, and corporate worship of God's people rather than living as isolated individuals.

Key Question: "How are you pursuing authentic community with other believers right now?"

Key Question: "What gets in the way of community with other believers?"

Looking to God's Word (The Truth Lens)

This chapter highlights our "Wealth in Christ" through the commitment to prioritize God's Word in practical life. The people promise specifically not to compromise in marriage, Sabbath rest, or financial giving. Our identity is rooted in aligning our daily choices—work, money, and relationships—with God's truth.

Key Question: "How is God's Word challenging you?"

Key Question: "What can you do to prioritize God's Word?"

PART 2: THE WALK

Listening to God's Voice (The Prayer Lens)

The people commit: "We will not neglect the house of our God" (Nehemiah 10:39, CSB).

Walking in the Spirit involves establishing spiritual rhythms of prayer, worship, and giving that keep our hearts tuned to God's voice and protect us from drifting into spiritual apathy.

Key Question: "How is God directing you?"

Key Question: "What do you need to quiet in your life to hear God better?"

Living Sent (The Mission Lens)

By bringing the firstfruits of their soil and flocks to support the temple ministry, the Israelites demonstrate that "sending capacity over seating capacity" requires tangible, sacrificial stewardship. Generosity with our time and resources equips the ministry that points a watching world to God.

Key Question: "What everyday opportunity have you used to point someone to Jesus?"

Key Question: "What opportunities did you miss to tell someone about Jesus?"

GROUP PRAYER & SUMMARY

Closing Thought: Nehemiah 10 shows us that genuine spiritual renewal must move beyond emotional moments into concrete, practical commitments in our everyday lives, finances, and relationships.

Final Action: Choose one practical area from Nehemiah 10 (your calendar, your budget, or your relationships) and set one specific, intentional guardrail this week to align it more closely with God's Word.

PAGE 3: FACILITATOR CHEAT SHEET

The Structural Lens

Indicative vs. Imperative:

The theological framework rests on the Indicative established in Nehemiah 8–9—that God has graciously redeemed, taught, and forgiven His people. The Imperative commitments in chapter 10 (signing the covenant, obeying the law, giving the firstfruits) flow directly out of that grace. Remind the group that covenant obedience is not a way to earn God's love, but a loving, joyful response to the redemption He has already provided.

Facilitation Tips

Avoiding Legalism: Group members might read the strict promises in verses 28–39 and view Christianity as a list of rules. Help them see the heart behind these commitments: the people were setting guardrails to protect their relationship with God and prevent slipping back into the sins that caused their exile.

Connecting Sabbath to Modern Life: When discussing the pledge to refrain from trading on the Sabbath (v. 31), guide the group to focus on the principle of trust—resting from work demonstrates that we trust God to provide rather than relying solely on our own hustle.

Leader Insights

Community: The covenant was signed by leaders on behalf of "everyone who had separated themselves from the neighboring peoples" (v. 28). The "One New Family" is defined by a shared dedication to holiness and mutual accountability.

Truth: Nehemiah 10 covers three primary areas where truth hits the ground: marriage/family (v. 30), time/commerce (v. 31), and finances/giving (v. 32–39). The "Truth Lens" must impact our actual behavior, not just our intellect.

Prayer: Dedicating firstfruits (v. 35) is an act of prayerful faith. It declares to God that we trust Him with the entire harvest by giving Him the first and best portion.

Mission: A well-supported, orderly house of God (v. 39) ensures that the witness of God's people remains strong. Our "sending capacity" relies on communities that intentionally steward their resources for gospel advancement.