

KNOWING THE WORD: UNDERSTANDING GOD'S STORY

NEHEMIAH 9:1-37

Read This First

Understanding the metanarrative (overarching story) of Scripture is vital in understanding our need for a Savior. Nehemiah 9 concisely sums up the story of the Old Testament setting us up to receive the message of the New Testament.

Relate to It

What's your favorite movie? book? story?

Have you ever tried to jump into the middle of a movie or TV series? How did you feel?

Were you able to figure things out?

Reflect on It

1. This week we spent a lot of time learning about the story of the Old Testament.

Review that story by reading aloud the sections of Scripture listed below. Write out and discuss the following:

<u>Summary</u>	<u>What I learned about God</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv. 6-8 -- Genesis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation - Abraham - Covenant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *great land (the promised land -- Israel) *great nation (the people of Israel) *great offspring (the person of Christ) • vv. 9-21 -- Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliverance from Egypt - God guided them with pillar of cloud and fire 	<p>Creator</p> <p>Covenant Maker</p> <p>Gift Giver</p> <p>Inspires Hope</p> <p>Deliverer</p>

- God gave them the Law -- Covenant Law-Giver
 - *this did not undo the covenant with Abraham
 - *it was added to point out their need for a Savior Merciful
 - *it defines sin and therefore points out that we are sinners
- God fed them with manna Provider
- The people of Israel rebelled
- They wandered 40 years . . . sustained by God Sustainer
- **vv. 22-24 -- Joshua**
 - They took possession of the promised land Has a Plan
 - God gave them great victory . . . keeping His promise Promise-Keeper
- **vv. 26-29 -- Judges, Ruth**
 - cycle of sin (Evil - Enemy - Cry Out - Judge) Savior
- **vv. 30-31 -- Samuel, Kings, Chronicles**
 - Prophets warned the people Patient
 - The people did not listen
 - They were exiled (Assyria 722 B.C. / Babylon 586 B.C.) Judge
 - God spared a remnant Gracious
- **vv. 32-37 -- Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther**
 - After Babylonian captivity
 - Remnant returned to Jerusalem Loving
 - They rebuilt the temple Faithful
 - They rebuilt the city walls
 - They intermarried with nations around them Holy
 - Prayer of confession Forgiving

(Books of Poetry were written during these events, as well as the Major and Minor Prophets.)

How would you summarize the message of the OT? (So that it would fit on a T-shirt!)

(Some ideas: Hopeless Humanity; We're Going Down!; Help!; Perils of a Pitiful People; We're in Deep Trouble!)

2. Read Romans 5:5-11 together.

Look up the word *reconciliation* together using your Blue Letter Bible app or the Hebrew/Greek Key Word Study Bible. Discuss the meaning and how it applies to our lives.

reconciliation -- (G2643) *katallage* -- exchange; adjustment of a difference; restoration to divine favor

Insight: My sins separate me from God. But because of His great love for me, Christ exchanged His righteousness for my sinfulness and took the penalty sin requires by dying on the cross. By receiving His gift of love, I can stand before God with a clean slate! My broken relationship with God is now restored.

3. As a group, view the You Tube video entitled "Cardboard Testimonies."

Hand out pieces of cardboard. Ask your group members if they have a before and after testimony they could write because of God's great love.

Remember It

If your group is larger than six, break down into smaller groups (no more than five or six in one group.) Then do the following:

1. Pair up so you can say your memory verses to one another. Explain why you chose that particular verse.
2. Share your cardboard testimonies within your small group.
3. Pray for one another.