

# Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

**Topic** - Renewing Our Covenant Community  
**Passage** - Nehemiah 9:1-10:39

**Date** - 12 July 2020  
**Speaker** - SP Ben KC Lee

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## WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

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## WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Spirit Touch Your Church
2. Lord, I Offer My Life

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## WORD [45 min]

### **Spiritual Objectives**

RiverLifers to

- Realise their need for humble repentance before God;
- Remember God's hand in our lives; and
- Renew our commitment to live for God.

### **Sermon Summary**

This is the ninth sermon in the series "Building the Future", studying through the book of Nehemiah. Pastor Ben Lee reminded us that God, who was faithful to the children of Israel, is ever faithful to us as well. We must therefore come clean before God and commit to live fully for Him. We start by remembering God's hand in our lives. We renew our commitment to live for God. Each of us must make a personal commitment to obey God's Word and live our lives God's way.

### **Sermon Recap (Full Summary)**

In Nehemiah chapter 9, the children of Israel assembled after the wall was completed. It was an assembly of humble repentance as they recalled and gave thanks to God for bringing them back as His covenantal people after many years of exile.

Pastor Ben Lee reminded us that God, who was faithful to the children of Israel, is ever faithful to us as well. We must therefore come clean before God and commit to live fully for Him.

We start by remembering God's hand in our lives.

- We make time to re-examine our lives (Nehemiah 9:1-5). The children of Israel realised their need for grace and gathered to repent and confess their sins. Similarly, we must make time for God in the hurriedness of our daily living, prioritising time with God over entertainment and the other temporal things in life.
- We see the height of God's greatness and realise the depths of our sin (Nehemiah 9:6-15). God is ever faithful throughout history. His greatness and character are evident throughout the ages. We must know that we are fallen. But instead of feeling condemned, we should focus on God's glory and realise that we are in desperate need for Him!
- When we uncover our sin to God, He covers it with His mercy (Nehemiah 9:16-31). Our problem is that sin weighs heavily on us (Psalm 32:3-4) if we do not go to God in confession and repentance (Psalm 32:5). When we do, we will find compassion (Proverbs 28:13).

We renew our commitment to live for God. God has a covenant with His people. This is a binding agreement. Each of us must make this personal commitment. The children of Israel sealed this commitment in writing (Nehemiah 9:38-10:28) to obey God's Word and live their lives God's way. They made three specific commitments to walk according to God's Word:

- Marry a godly person (Nehemiah 10:30). We should honour God at home, especially in marriage (1 Corinthians 7:39). Pastor Ben Lee exhorted singles not to enter into marriage with a non-believer and for parents to guide our children to live out this commitment.
- Worship God as our first priority (Nehemiah 10:31). God instituted the Sabbath rest for His people out of love. As Christians, we should commit to this principle of resting and trusting in God!
- Give our first and best to God (Nehemiah 10:32-39). We are not to neglect the house of God. This is not about the church building but investing into the lives of God's people. God wants us to practice generosity in our giving and not be satisfied to doing just the bare minimum.

Spiritual renovation happens before spiritual renewal! No matter where we are spiritually, we need to pursue spiritual renewal personally and as a church community. Only God can cause renewal and we can rely of His promises. Pastor Ben Lee urged each person to make this spiritual commitment specific and be accountable to one another in the cell.

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### Discussion Questions

1. **Read Nehemiah 9:7-37. We see a pattern of God being gracious, faithful, and kind to the Israelites despite them being stubborn and disobedient. Share from your personal life experience of God's goodness despite of our failures and mistakes.** [10 min]

#### Leaders' Notes

*This is a relate question. Leaders can encourage members to share how God has been good to them in the past when they did not deserve it, especially when they were in the wrong (see James 5:16).*

*Nehemiah 9:7-37 recounts God's goodness to His people throughout history, starting from God choosing Abram, delivering Israel from Egypt and providing for Israel in the*

wilderness. Even though Israel was repeatedly sinful and rebellious in response, God was gracious and kept His covenant (a binding agreement) with Israel. Nehemiah 9:32-37 is a plea to God for intervention. God intervened in mercy because of His character (God is love) and His covenant (God keeps promises). Israel came to a place of real confession – recognising and agreeing (with God) that He was right, and they were wrong. Similarly, for us as Christians, we must come to the place of looking up to God and say, “Yes, Lord... You are right and I am wrong.”

#### Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

After we have shared God’s hand in our lives and reflected on His goodness, what should be our response? The next question is on the response of the children of Israel and what we can learn from them.

### **2. Pastor Ben Lee mentioned three specific commitments that the Israelites promised God. What are they? Discuss how they are relevant to you. [15 min]**

#### Leaders’ Notes

*This is a recap and reflect question. From Nehemiah 10:30-39, we can draw several practical learning points:*

- Marry a godly person,
- Worship God as our number one priority, and
- Give our first and best to God.

*The main points for each are covered in the above summary of the sermon. Further discussions on how these are relevant to our day-to-day living is found below:*

- a. *Is It Sinful To Date A Non-Christian?* (<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/is-it-sinful-to-date-a-non-christian>)
- b. *Relaxing In God’s Goodness*  
(<https://saddleback.com/connect/Articles/MAP/2017/2/14/RELAXING-IN-GODS-GOODNESS>)
- c. *Three Key Principles Of Godly Giving*  
(<https://www.crosswalk.com/family/finances/three-key-principles-of-godly-giving-1426486.html>).

*Depending on the relevancy these are to the members, leaders can choose to dive deeper into one topic and examine how members can commit to live God’s way for our lives.*

#### Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

In Nehemiah 9:38, Israel came and reaffirmed their covenant with God, even writing it down and committing themselves to God’s ways. Similarly, leaders can ask members to renew our commitment to live for God and to hold one another accountable for this commitment.

### **3. Pastor Ben Lee urged us to renew our commitment to live for God. What are your life priorities? If you were to draw up a written commitment with God, what would you include? [15 min]**

### Leader's Notes

*This is a response question. Members can think through their present life priorities and see how God features in them. Central to this would be a commitment to obey God's Word.*

*The following are practical pointers that members can consider in drawing up and committing to grow spiritually. (Adapted from "My Spiritual Growth Plan", inventory.growingdisciples.info, 2009):*

- a. Plan to reflect Jesus' love using your three greatest strengths,*
- b. Commit to growing in your three weakest areas,*
- c. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in deciding what to do and acting on your plan,*
- d. Reflect on possible action steps for each spiritual commitment and get started,*
- e. Review your plan with a mature Christian friend (e.g. a cell leader), and*
- f. Commit to following your plan and be accountable to your Christian friend.*

*Members can pray about these commitments in pairs and spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (See Hebrews 10:22-24)*

### Closing

Revival must happen within our church, because the church is where God brings His change to the world. It is time to get real about our lives and what we use our lives for. It is time to be reminded of God's greatness, reset how we use our lives, and commit to God's mission!

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## **WORKS** [10 min]

Let's pray for the following pointers:

### **1. Response to Message**

- That we are thankful to God for His goodness in our lives and ask God to strengthen and refresh us to renew our commitment to live for God!

### **2. COVID-19 – Phase 2**

- Pray for Christians to continue to grow and share the good news during this season.
- Pray for the recovery of our economy, locally and internationally.
- Pray for the decrease of community cases as we continue in Phase 2.

### **3. Elections**

- Pray for God's sovereignty and wisdom over our newly elected government.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1. Bible Reading Plan.** You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting [www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp](http://www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp).



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;  
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."  
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

# Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

## 1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.  
Scan this QR code on the right.

SCAN ME



## 2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account:  
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0  
Bank Code: 7171  
Branch Code: 029



### Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

### Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.

