



NEHEMIAH

9

THANKFULNESS

*Each session will begin with an opportunity to help you connect with and get to know one another.*

What is your favorite praise song? What does it highlight about God?

*Play the "Session Nine: Thankfulness" video lesson.*

What stood out to you from the video?

**"SPEAK TO ONE ANOTHER WITH PSALMS, HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS. SING AND MAKE MUSIC IN YOUR HEART TO THE LORD. ALWAYS GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER FOR EVERYTHING. IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST."**

**— PAUL OF TARSAUS**

*In the following section, you will explore Bible passages and take part in discussion to apply insights from this session. If time is a concern, please choose just a few questions to discuss in your group.*

**Read Nehemiah 12:27-31, 38-40, 43-47**

1. If you could throw a party of appreciation for one person who has impacted your life, who would it be? How would you celebrate them? What kind of gift would you give to demonstrate your gratitude to them?

2. Nehemiah and the people of Judah went to great lengths in this story to show their thankfulness to God. Why did they do this? In what ways do Christians show their thankfulness to God? How do you personally thank God for what He has given you?

3. In this story, the Levites purified themselves before offering their thanksgiving to God. Why should we purify ourselves from sin before offering our thanks to God? How can our sin twist our hearts and make it difficult for us to be thankful?

***Read Psalm 147:1-14***

4. Why is it good to sing praises to our God? How does praise and worship affect us and transform us? How does it bring us close to God?

5. From these verses, what reasons do we have to thank the Lord? If the Lord was standing in front of you right now, and you had the opportunity to thank Him personally for one thing, what would you choose? Why?

6. Share a time when you were affected or transformed during a moment of praise and worship. What do you remember specifically about that moment? What was said or sung that moved you so deeply?

## DEEPER STUDY QUESTIONS

*Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34*

7. One of the words Christians have used throughout history for the Lord's Supper is the word "Eucharist," which comes from a Greek word meaning "to give thanks." How do we "give thanks" by taking the Lord's Supper? How were the Corinthian Christians turning the Lord's Supper into something different than what Jesus intended it to be?

8. Why should we examine ourselves before taking the Lord's Supper? How do we do this? What does it mean to take the Lord's Supper in an "unworthy manner?" How can we avoid this?

## **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

*This is a place where you can write each other's prayer requests and make notes when God answers prayer. Pray for each other's requests out loud together as a group. If you're new to group prayer, you may pray silently.*

### **Prayer Requests**

### **Praise Reports**