

PASTOR'S NOTES

Lessons from Nehemiah – The Longest Prayer in the Bible

Nehemiah 9

Nehemiah was a man of prayer. The book bearing his name has must-learn lessons about prayer and dependence on God.

If we attempt anything eternally valuable or glorious to our Lord, we dare not do it without faith and prayer.

Without prayer, we are powerless in our self-effort.

- Are you satisfied with your prayer life?
- Can you name three things you have sought the Lord in prayer over the past three days?
- Is your time in God's word balanced with your time in earnest prayer?
- Do you sense the Lord longing for more time with you in prayer?

A reminder of what prayer is not.

We pray not to gain God's favor. No, Jesus secured God's favor for us when he removed our sins and credited us with his righteousness. Rather, we pray to align ourselves with God's heart, will, and purposes.

Prayer is not for impersonal unleashed power as if the Lord is an "impersonal source of power waiting to propel the desires of men and women."

Prayer is not a magical formula for obtaining our desires. It is part of communing with God in a deep and personal relationship.

Recap Nehemiah 8:

See Nehemiah 9:1-3

The Holy Spirit convicted the people of sins, and the people responded with godly sorrow, leading to repentance expressed in various ways.

- Fasting
- Wearing sackcloth
- Putting dirt on their heads
- Separated from all foreigners
- Standing and confessing their sins and the sins of their fathers

I doubt the Lord would call any of us to replace our cotton/polyester shirts with burlap gunny sacks or with residue of Alabama dirt in our hair.

When we fall under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, we should consider how to express our sorrow, contrition, and repentance. Perhaps in ways like:

- Fasting
- Having solitude and reflecting on God's word
- Humbling and truthfully confessing to a trusted, Spirit-filled person who will pray for us, encourage us in God's word, and hold us accountable to walk in the Spirit reveals our genuine desire to live as Christ.
- Separating yourself from worldly sinfulness

The Longest Prayer

Bless and adore the Lord, the Creator

Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. ⁶ "You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you. (Nehemiah 9:5-6 ESV)

Meaningful prayers most often open with adoration of God, exalting him above all, for he is.

You can repeat or reflect on the truths you've read from the Bible, which is what the Nehemiah 9 prayer does.

Recounting God's goodness and renouncing our sinfulness

In Nehemiah 9:7-31, the prayer recounts God's faithfulness and goodness, and it renounces the people's generational sinful past.

Nehemiah's generation dealt with generational sins by confessing them. They recalled Israel's seven sinful cycles—blessings, sin, decline, oppression, repentance, and deliverance. They weren't merely pointing out the sins of others; they saw the previous generations' sins in them, and they were committed to change.

This change was rooted in God's grace, mercy, and steadfast love. *But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them. (Nehemiah 9:17 ESV)*

Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God. Yet you have been righteous in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly. (Nehemiah 9:31; 33 ESV)

Anticipating Holy Week:



MeadowBrook
CHURCH

Sunday, March 24, 2024 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com



RESURRECTION
SUNDAY

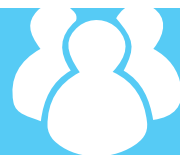
AT MEADOWBROOK

We're excited to celebrate the hope of the resurrection with you this year at MeadowBrook. Resurrection Sunday is a time for us to focus on the day Jesus defeated the grave and brought us eternal hope.

Next Sunday, March 31
at 8:30 or 10:30 AM

Life Groups will not meet

Kids Worship LIVE will meet in the
Kids' Theater at 8:30 & 10:30 AM



CONNECT *people to Christ
and His church*



MARCH MADNESS FELLOWSHIP

TONIGHT 4:00-7:00 PM

in the Gym & Dining Hall

For men of all ages!
\$8.00 Adult Plate / \$4 Student Plate

MeadowBrook will provide wings & pizza.
Men, bring your favorite side dish!

Register at mbchurch.com or on the MB App



GOOD FRIDAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 at 6:30 PM

Our special Good Friday worship service will be a time for us to reflect on the incredible sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross for us, and look forward to the excitement that comes with Resurrection Sunday.



**MISSIONS to
NORTH AMERICA**

This year, through the Annie Armstrong offering, MeadowBrook is seeking to raise \$32,000 to directly support mission efforts in North America. This money is used to plant churches, support missionaries, train pastors, and help the overall effort to reach some of the most needed places on our continent. You can give through the MB app, or by going to giving.mbchurch.com.

Given to Date: \$12,490.00



GROW *them as disciples
and equip them to*

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY

8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 am - Kids Worship Live - Kids' Theater
10:30 am - Life Group
11:30 am - 55+ Lunch with Brenda Gantt - Gym
4:00 pm - The Forge - Men's March Madness Fellowship - Gym & Dining Hall

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center
10:45 am - Abundant Life Choir - Worship Center

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

No Fellowship Meal, Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Student Ministry or Adult Bible Study tonight
6:30 pm - Worship Ministry Resurrection Sunday
Final Rehearsal

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Church Office Closed
6:30 pm - Good Friday Service - Worship Center

**life
group**
*Life together for the
Kingdom of God*

SUNDAYS at 10:30 AM

Life Group is the best way to connect to the ministry and community at MeadowBrook.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a brochure at Guest Connections.

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a **FREE** gift!

**2024
BIBLE
READING**

March 24 - Mark 12:28-44

March 25 - Mark 13:1-37

March 26 - Mark 14:1-25

March 27 - Mark 14:26-52

Bible reading plans are available at Guest Connections & Ministry Central

March 28 - Mark 14:53-72

March 29 - Mark 15:1-20

March 30 - Mark 15:21-47



SERVE *through missions,
ministry and worship*

Reminder...

**No Wednesday
services this week!**



OCTOBER 21-23, 2024

The 55+ Blue Ridge, GA trip is now open!

Join us for an unforgettable journey to one of the South's Best Mountain Towns!
Limited spots available due to hotel availability.

Register at mbchurch.com/55plus

centrikid
camps

**JULY 29 - AUGUST 2
at WorldSong Retreat**

for kids who've completed 3rd-5th Grades

Camp Cost: \$360 per child
*Non-refundable \$80 deposit due
at registration / Balance due July 14*

Limited spots available. Register early!

**Register on the MB App
or at events.mbchurch.com**

Contact Kristi (kristi@mbchurch.com)
or Vickey (vickey@mbchurch.com)
for more information.

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kathy Clayton, Larry Gillis, Rob Morris, Brett Yancey, Kyle Hughes, Tony Howell, Andrea Love, Tommy Thompson, Bob Cross, Bart Watts, Brinley Corbin, Margie Martin, Melissa Griffin, Thomas Lee, Martha Vaughn

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Vernon Tull, Pam Findley, Lanette Albright, Chris Burnette, Lloyd Matthews, Landon Cunningham, Max & Denise Dover, Lola-Ruth Adams, Wes Burnett, Tom Simmons, Danny Maddox, Frank & Peggy Brizendine, Wayne Wood, Anna Moore, Tom Bentley, Jerry Smith, Mallory Dunn Bramlett, Kathy Thompson, Susan Mize, Aiden Beck

- Mack Garrison & family in the loss of his sister, Corrine Garrison
- Joyce Seale, sister of Laura Hoge - Gadsden Regional
- Steve Terrell - McGuffey's Rehab
- Baby Hayes, 10 month old grandson of Mike & Susan Shehi (recovering from open heart surgery)