



## HOME GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**READ** Nehemiah 13

**DISCUSS** the passage together.

1/ Discuss this quote from N.T. Wright: *“We read scripture in order to be refreshed in our memory and understanding of the story within which we ourselves are actors, to be reminded where it has come from and where it is going to, and hence what our own part within it ought to be.”* How could this “story” approach enrich your study of the Bible?

2/ The last chapter of Nehemiah is a great anticlimax. After so much renewal and optimism, we see God’s people falling back into old sin patterns:

They promise one thing about worship (10:32-39) but do another (13:7-13).

They promise on thing about the Sabbath (10:31) but do another (13:15-22).

The promise to keep God the center of marriage (10:30), but don’t (13:23-27).

What is your reaction to this anticlimax? Why do you think Nehemiah ends this way?

3/ How does Nehemiah chapter 13 point you to Jesus? Consider all their failures and how Jesus perfects them on their behalf.

4/ Ruminant on this quote from Fleming Rutledge: *“The church lives in Advent. That is to say, the church lives between two advents. Jesus Christ as come. Jesus Christ will come. We do not know the day or the hour. If you find this tension almost unbearable at times, then you can understand the Christian life.”*

**APPLY** the text to your life (these questions from Redeemer might help).

1/ How can I praise him?

2/ How can I confess my sins on the basis of this text?

3/ If this is really true, what wrong behavior, what harmful emotions or false attitudes result in me when I forget this?

4/ What should I be aspiring to on the basis of this text?

5/ God, why are you telling me this today?

**PRAY** together for the things you just shared, and also for anything else in your life.