

# Faithful to the Faithless

Nehemiah 9:1–38

1. How \_\_\_\_\_ Acted

2. How \_\_\_\_\_ Acted

Descriptions of Israel:

3. How \_\_\_\_\_ Responded

Descriptions of God:

4. How \_\_\_\_\_ (finally) Responded

*God, you have been faithful in \_\_\_\_\_*

*I have been faithless in \_\_\_\_\_*

*God you have been faithful in \_\_\_\_\_*

*I have been faithless in \_\_\_\_\_*

*In view of this, I am making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and affixing my seal to it.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

## For the Family

**Review** our story so far:

Nehemiah went to Jerusalem to repair the walls around the city. Despite opposition from their enemies, they completed the wall in 52 days! Nehemiah appointed good leaders to help Jerusalem be a safe place where God could be worshiped. The people then gathered together and Ezra the scribe read from God's law. The people repented from their sin, and worshipped together.

**Read** Nehemiah 9:1–5

Explain that the people wanted to confess their sins, and the sins of their fore-fathers. To confess means to tell the truth about something. They told the truth about themselves and about God.

**Read** Nehemiah 9:16–17

**Explain** that the people knew the history of their fore-fathers. They had been disobedient, and wanted to follow other leaders, rather than God. They ignored all the good and amazing things that God had done for them over the years. They were “stiff-necked.”

**Explain** that this phrase was used of a team of oxen that refused to do what they were told. They would stiffen their necks against the yoke, and refuse to move. This is a picture of the people of Israel, refusing to do what God wanted them to do. The people confessed that this was wrong.

**Explain** that confession also means to tell the truth about God. They said that God was *“ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”* Talk together about what these words tell us about God. He loves us so much that even when we are “stiff-necked” and disobedient, he is ready to forgive us and help us do the right thing.

**Pray together** and tell God that you know how great he is, that he loves you, and has done amazing things for you. Tell him that you know that you have sometimes been disobedient. Tell him you are sorry, and ask him to forgive you and give you another chance to show him how much you love him.