

Group Questions

1. Do you have a specific sin from your past that seems to continuously haunt you? Share it with the group if you are comfortable doing so.
 - a. What is the value in contemplating the seriousness and immensity of your accumulated sins?
 - b. What is the danger in doing so? What is the danger in never doing so?
2. Can you think of any other chapters in the Bible summarize and interpret large portions of biblical history?
 - a. If you were going to summarize the whole Old Testament using 10 or fewer topical headings, what would they be?
3. Why do you think this prayer of confession begin with creation?
 - a. How/why might doing the same make your own prayers more meaningful?
4. Does the Sabbath seem to you more like a gift or an imposition?
 - a. What stands in the way of your enjoyment of the Sabbath?
5. How does going over the history of Israel help us to ponder our own sinfulness? Do we sometimes blame Israel for their stubborn sinfulness while overlooking the fact that we are the same?
 - a. When you consider how often God blessed Israel, Israel sinned against God, and God showed mercy to Israel, what aspects of that cycle do you find discouraging? What is encouraging?
6. Do you think God is pleased or offended when we appeal to Him for mercy?
 - a. Can you think of a human metaphor or example that expresses similar love and mercy?
7. How might you use Nehemiah 9 in a children's Sunday school class to teach about the sinfulness of man and the mercy of God?