

Pacific Growth Group – Sermon Questions

Week of November 16th, 2025

Sermon Series: The Build – An Exploration into Nehemiah

Sermon Theme: “The Vow: An Expression of Worship.”

Primary Text(s): Nehemiah 9:38-10:1, 28-39.

1. **Read Nehemiah 9:38 to 10:39.**
2. *The sermon opened with the pinky-promise illustration. What does this childhood symbol teach us about our human desire for visible signs of commitment?*
 - a. Leader Prompt: Connect this to how adults still rely on rituals or symbols.
 - i. *Follow-up: What modern “signs” of commitment do you personally value?*
3. *In Nehemiah 9 & 10, the people make vows rooted in God’s covenant faithfulness. How does understanding biblical covenant change the way we view commitment to God?*
 - a. Leader Prompt: Draw connections between covenant = relationship, not legalism.
 - i. *Where do you sense God inviting you to trust His covenant faithfulness more fully in this season of your life?*
4. *The people vowed to worship God purely, generously, and wholeheartedly. Which of these three vows stands out to you right now, and why?*
 - a. Leader Prompt: Let people focus on the vow that feels most relevant.
 - i. *Follow-up: What practical action flows from that vow today?*
5. *The people ended with, “We promise together not to neglect the Temple of our God.” What might “not neglecting God’s house” look like for Christians today?*
 - a. Leader Prompt: Explore community, worship, unity, serving, giving, and presence.
 - i. *Follow-up: What is one way the church can cultivate this together?*
6. *The sermon asked: “What are we committed to? Who gets our first and best?” When you reflect on your own commitments, what priorities surface most clearly?*
 - a. Leader Prompt: Frame this as reflection, not judgment.
 - i. *Follow-up: Where might God be inviting you to reorder your “first and best”?*
7. *Jesus highlighted two foundational commitments: love God and love neighbour (Matt. 22:37-39). Which of these is more difficult in your current season, and why?*
 - a. Leader Prompt: Draw out real-life tensions and spiritual experiences.

- i. Follow-up: What helps you live out that love consistently?*
- 8. *John Mark Comer said, “If we’re not being intentionally formed by Jesus, we are being unintentionally formed by something else.” What are the most dominant “formative forces” shaping you these days?*
 - a. Leader Prompt: Mention technology, news, ambitions, pain, relationships, culture.
 - i. Follow-up: How might intentional formation in Christ push back against these forces?*
- 9. *The gym-membership analogy described how enthusiasm can fade. When have you felt your spiritual commitment start to drift, and what contributed to that?*
 - a. Leader Prompt: Normalize this; everyone experiences drift.
 - i. Follow-up: What rhythms help reignite your spiritual hunger?*
- 10. *The sermon addressed wounded trust; times when others have broken vows. How have experiences of broken commitment shaped your ability to trust God?*
 - a. Leader Prompt: Keep responses optional and sensitive.
 - i. Follow-up: What truth about God’s faithfulness brings healing to that area?*
- 11. *In the prodigal son story, which part of the father’s response (running, embracing, restoring, forgiving) speaks most powerfully to you—and why?*
 - a. Leader Prompt: Encourage participants to visualize Rembrandt’s painting.
 - i. Follow-up: How does this image reshape your view of God’s posture toward you?*
- 12. *After this sermon, what vow, intention, or prayer do you sense God inviting you to make or renew?*
 - a. Leader Prompt: Stress that this is an invitation, not pressure.
 - i. Follow-up: How can this group pray for or support that desire?*