

Prepare the Way, Part 4

Committed

We always have a choice. Often the generational stories that have shaped us and the moment we are in come to a head, and we stand at a place of decision: How will we respond in this chapter of the story we find ourselves in? Listen in as Pastor JoAnn Johnson encourages us to wholeheartedly commit to God's people, house, and mission.

Let's go in our Bibles: Nehemiah 9 & 10 (NIV)

1. Respond to _____ with _____.

Nehemiah 9:32a–33, 38 (NIV) Now therefore, our God, the great God, mighty and awesome, **who keeps his covenant of love...** ³³ In all that has happened to us, **you have remained righteous; you have acted faithfully,** while we acted wickedly ... ³⁸ **"In view of all this,** we are making a binding **agreement,** putting it in **writing,** and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are **affixing** their seals to it."
God's Word doesn't just _____, it _____ us!

a. Honor God

Nehemiah 10:29 (NIV) ...all these [the 84 people named] now join their fellow Israelites the nobles, and **bind themselves** with a curse and an oath **to follow the Law of God** given through Moses the servant of God and **to obey carefully all the commands, regulations and decrees of the Lord our Lord.**

b. 100% Engagement

Nehemiah 10:35–36 (NIV) ³⁵ We also **assume responsibility** for bringing to the house of the Lord **each year the firstfruits of our crops** and of every fruit tree. ³⁶ "As it is also written in the Law, we will bring the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, of our herds and of our flocks to the house of our God, to the priests ministering there.

c. Give Generously

Nehemiah 10:39 (NIV) The people of Israel, including the Levites, are to bring their contributions of grain, new wine and olive oil to the storerooms, where the articles for the sanctuary and for the ministering priests, the gatekeepers and the musicians are also kept. **"We will not neglect the house of our God."**