

## Stand Up and Bless the Lord

### Nehemiah 9

#### Review

1. This prayer may seem strange to us because it is so focused on God.
2. The people blessed and worshipped God because He is the Creator of all things.
3. The people blessed and trusted God because He is faithful to keep His promises, and because He is merciful to care for His people.
4. The people blessed God and confessed their sins because He is gracious and patient with sinners.
5. Even though God is holy and righteous we can be confident in His forgiveness because Christ has kept the law and paid the penalty due to all those who love and trust in Him.

#### Go further – Read Matthew 6:5-15

1. What sort of prayer does Jesus warn us about in verse 5? How is this different from corporate prayers in public worship, or prayers over a meal in a restaurant?
2. Why do you think Jesus tells us to pray in secret in verse 6? How does this sort of prayer strengthen our relationship with God?
3. What sort of prayer does Jesus warn us about in verse 7? How might we fall into this error?
4. What assurance does Jesus give us in verse 8? How can this give us confidence in prayer, instead of making prayer seem pointless?
5. In verse 9, the Lord's prayer starts with the words "Our Father." What does this tell us about our relationship with God, and why is this such an important foundation for prayer?
6. Why is it meaningful for our prayers that God is in Heaven?
7. In verse 9, the first thing Jesus says we should ask for in prayer is that God name would be "hallowed," be considered holy. Why is this important for ourselves as well as for others to do?
8. In verse 10, Jesus says we should ask that God's kingdom would come. What does this mean for us and for others today, as well as on the day Christ comes again?
9. What do you think is the distinction between God's kingdom coming and His will being done? Why is it important for us to put doing God's will in our lives ahead of any other requests we might ask of Him? How is this similar to what Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane?
10. In verse 11, Jesus tells us to ask for our daily bread. What does this say about what sorts of requests we should make to God? How often should we ask God to help us?
11. In verse 12, Jesus tells us how to ask for forgiveness. When He uses the language of debts and debtors, what does that mean we owe to God and to each other?
12. In verses 14 and 15, what condition does Jesus place on our forgiveness? Why is there such a close connection between our forgiving and our being forgiven?
13. In verse 13, the Lord's Prayer asks God not to lead us into temptation. What does this acknowledge about God's sovereign power and about our weakness and dependence on Him?
14. When we ask God to deliver us from evil, what does this say about the dangers in the world around us? What confidence does this prayer give us in the face of wickedness?
15. What is so similar about the ending of the Lord's Prayer in verse 13 and its beginning? What confidence do God's kingdom, power and glory give us? What do these three things tell us about the purpose of our lives?