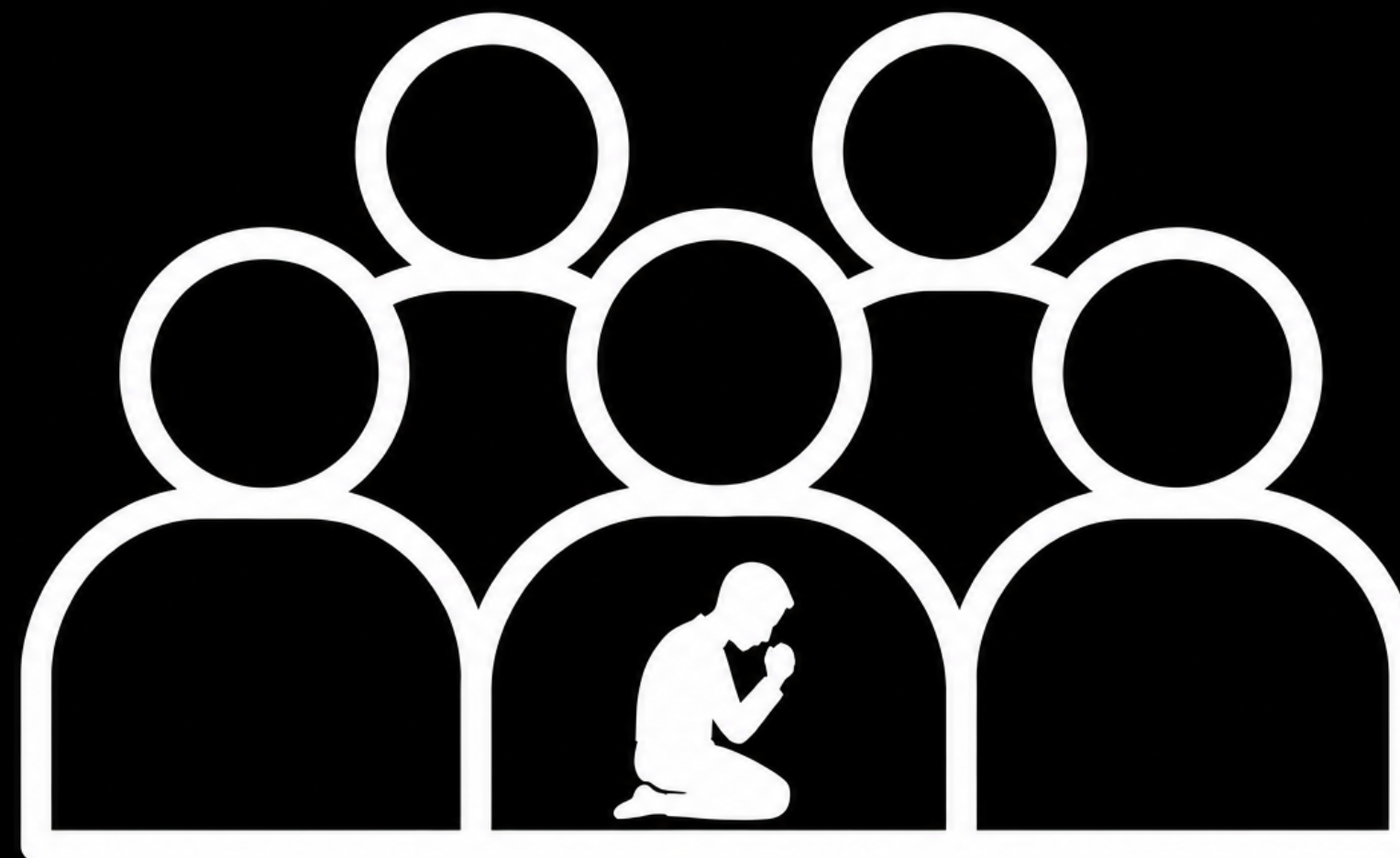


Let Us Arise and Build

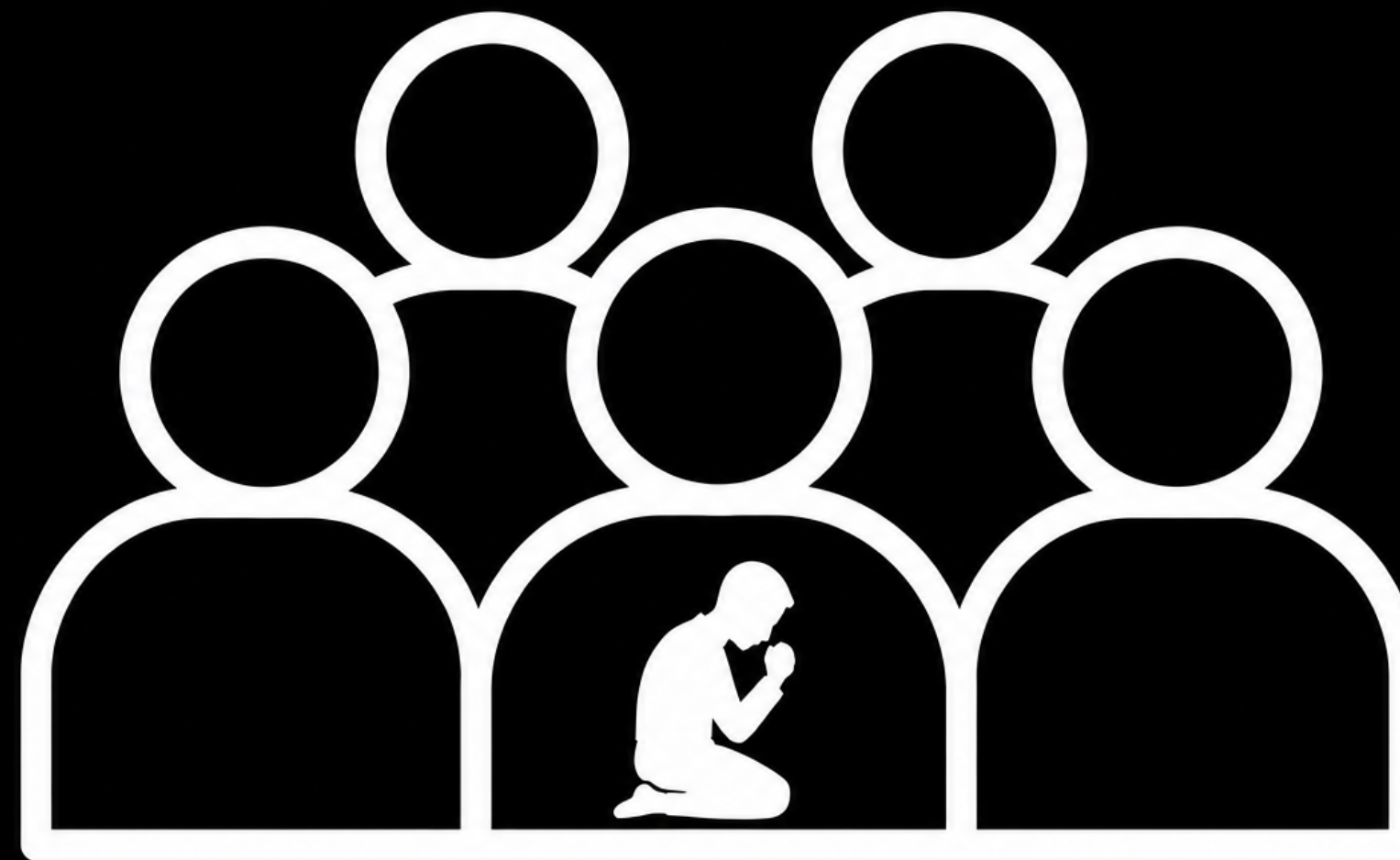
Nehemiah 9
Arise, Bless the Lord



Prayer Focus Work Togetherness

The Big Truth:

Our wickedness needs to be confessed,
and God's faithfulness needs to be remembered.



Nehemiah 9:1 Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the sons of Israel assembled with fasting, in sackcloth and with dirt upon them. 2 The descendants of Israel separated themselves from all foreigners, and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. 3 While they stood in their place, they read from the book of the law of the Lord their God for a fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the Lord their God.

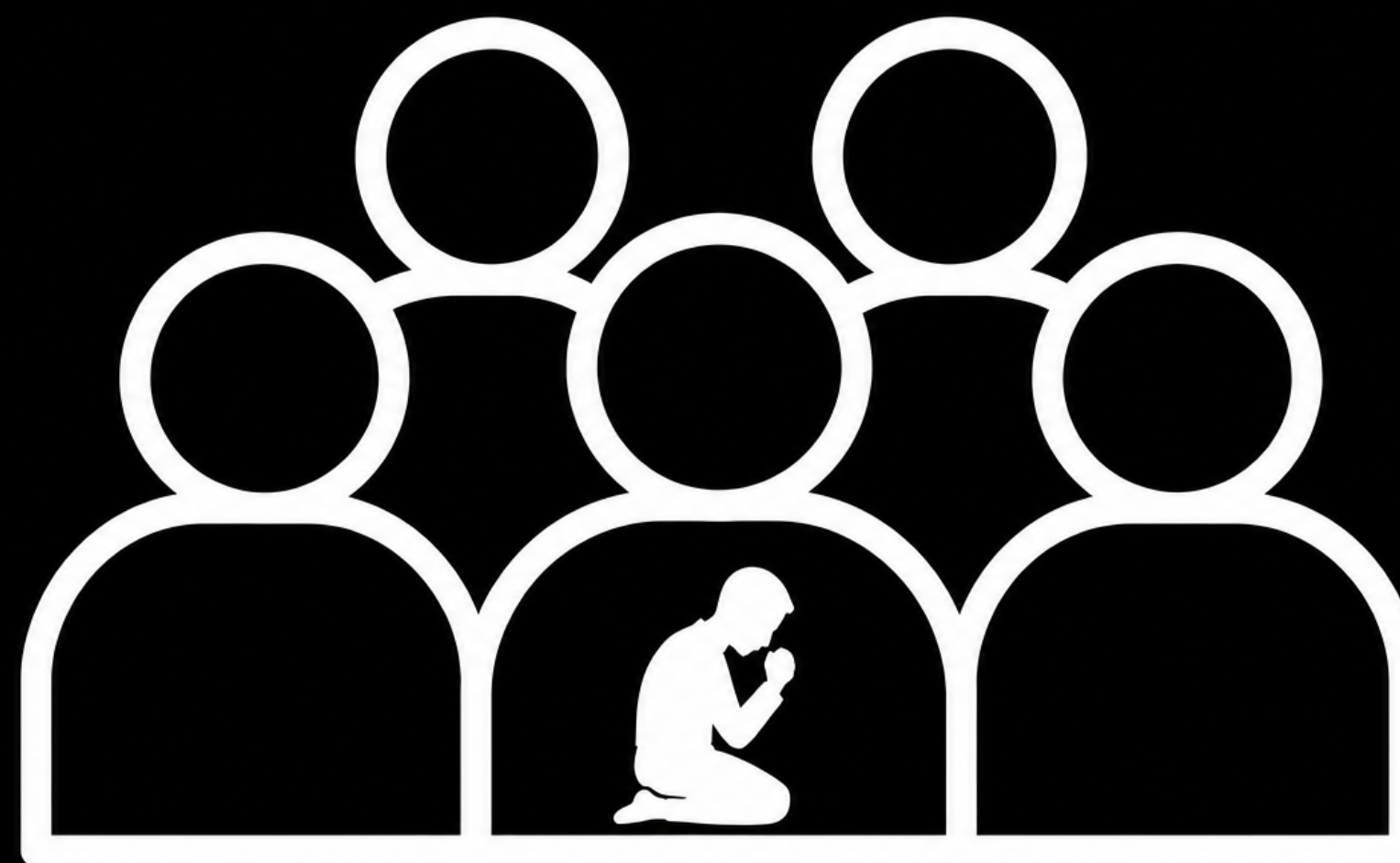
1. After the Word exposed their sin, God's people responded with confession and worship. (vv. 1-3)

Nehemiah 9:4 Now on the Levites' platform stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani and Chenani, and **they cried with a loud voice to the Lord** their God. 5 Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah and Pethahiah, said, **"Arise, bless the LORD your God forever and ever!** O may Your glorious name be blessed And exalted above all blessing and praise!

2. God's leaders led the people in prayer, remembering that God had dealt faithfully and the people had acted wickedly. (vv. 4-37)

a. The leaders cried to the LORD and called God's people to arise and bless the LORD. (vv. 4-5)

Worship is not just something we do in a service.
Worship is a loving response to God's glory now and forever.



Nehemiah 9:6 “**You alone are the Lord.** You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.

7 “**You are the Lord God,** Who chose Abram And brought him out from Ur of the Chaldees, And gave him the name Abraham.

8 “You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him To give him the land of the Canaanite, Of the Hittite and the Amorite, Of the Perizzite, the Jebusite and the Girgashite—To give it to his descendants. And **You have fulfilled Your promise, For You are righteous.**

2. God’s leaders led the people in prayer, remembering that God had dealt faithfully and the people had acted wickedly. (vv. 4-37)

b. God’s leaders recognized that God created the world and chose a people through His covenant with Abraham. (vv. 6-8)

Nehemiah 9:9 “You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt,
And heard their cry by the Red Sea.

10 “Then You performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh,
Against all his servants and all the people of his land;
For You knew that they acted arrogantly toward them,
And made a name for Yourself as it is this day.

11 “You divided the sea before them, So they passed through the midst of
the sea on dry ground; And their pursuers You hurled into the depths, Like
a stone into raging waters.

12 “And with a pillar of cloud You led them by day, And with a pillar of fire
by night To light for them the way In which they were to go.

2. God’s leaders led the people in prayer, remembering that God had dealt
faithfully and the people had acted wickedly. (vv. 4-37)

c. God’s leaders recognized that God had faithfully led His people out of
Egypt. (vv. 9-12)

Nehemiah 9:13 “Then You came down on Mount Sinai,
And spoke with them from heaven;
You gave them just ordinances and true laws,
Good statutes and commandments.

14 “So You made known to them Your holy sabbath,
And laid down for them commandments, statutes and law,
Through Your servant Moses.

15 “You provided bread from heaven for them for their hunger,
You brought forth water from a rock for them for their thirst,
And You told them to enter in order to possess
The land which You swore to give them.

2. God’s leaders led the people in prayer, remembering that God had dealt faithfully and the people had acted wickedly. (vv. 4-37)

d. God’s leaders recognized that God had faithfully provided for His people in the wilderness. (vv. 13-15)

Nehemiah 9:16 “But they, **our fathers, acted arrogantly**;
They became stubborn and would not listen to Your commandments.
17 “They refused to listen, And did not remember Your wondrous deeds
which You had performed among them;
So they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to their slavery
in Egypt. **But You are a God of forgiveness, Gracious and compassionate**,
Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness; And You did not forsake
them.
18 “Even when they made for themselves A calf of molten metal
And said, ‘This is your God Who brought you up from Egypt,’
And committed great blasphemies,

2. God’s leaders led the people in prayer, remembering that God had dealt faithfully and the people had acted wickedly. (vv. 4-37)

e. God’s leaders recognized that their fathers acted arrogantly in the face of a gracious and compassionate God. (vv. 16-18)

Nehemiah 9:19 You, in Your great compassion, Did not forsake them in the wilderness; The pillar of cloud did not leave them by day, To guide them on their way, Nor the pillar of fire by night, to light for them the way in which they were to go.

20 “You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them,
Your manna You did not withhold from their mouth,
And You gave them water for their thirst.

21 “Indeed, forty years You provided for them in the wilderness and they were not in want; Their clothes did not wear out, nor did their feet swell.

2. God’s leaders led the people in prayer, remembering that God had dealt faithfully and the people had acted wickedly. (vv. 4-37)

f. God’s leaders recognized that God had faithfully provided for His people in the wilderness. (vv. 19-21).

Nehemiah 9:22 “You also gave them kingdoms and peoples,
And allotted them to them as a boundary.

They took possession of the land of Sihon the king of Heshbon
And the land of Og the king of Bashan.

23 “You made their sons numerous as the stars of heaven,
And You brought them into the land
Which You had told their fathers to enter and possess.

24 “So their sons entered and possessed the land.
And You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites,
And You gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land,
To do with them as they desired.

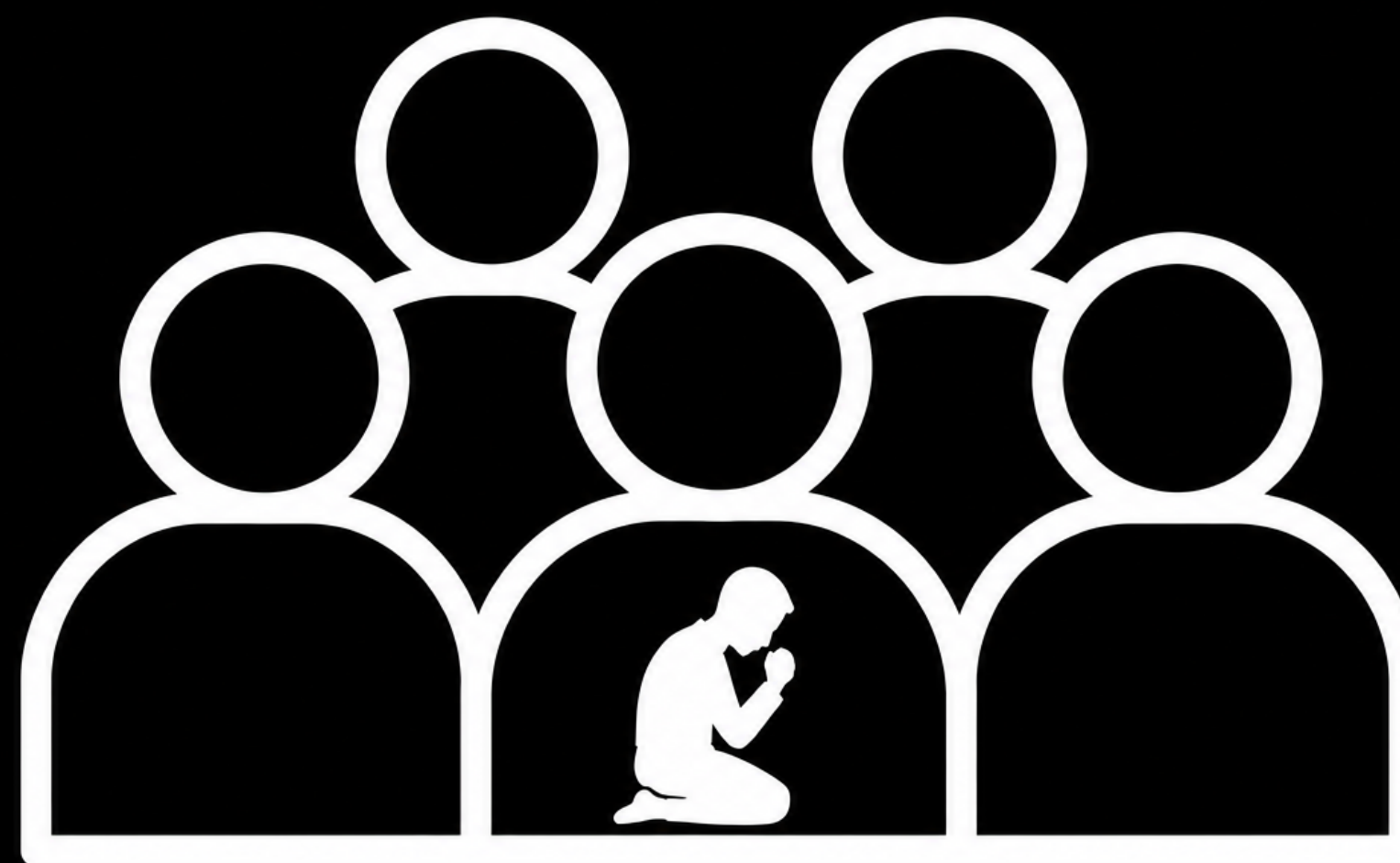
25 “They captured fortified cities and a fertile land.
They took possession of houses full of every good thing,
Hewn cisterns, vineyards, olive groves, Fruit trees in abundance.
So they ate, were filled and grew fat, And reveled in Your great goodness.

2 (vv. 4-37) g. God’s leaders recognized that God gave His people
possession of the land and provided more than enough. (vv. 22-25)

Nehemiah 9:26 “But they became disobedient and rebelled against You,
And cast Your law behind their backs
And killed Your prophets who had admonished them
So that they might return to You, And they committed great blasphemies.
27 “Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their oppressors who oppressed them, But when they cried to You in the time of their distress,
You heard from heaven, and according to Your great compassion
You gave them deliverers who delivered them from the hand of their oppressors.
28 “But as soon as they had rest, they did evil again before You;
Therefore You abandoned them to the hand of their enemies, so that they ruled over them. When they cried again to You, You heard from heaven,
And many times You rescued them according to Your compassion,
29 And admonished them in order to turn them back to Your law.
Yet they acted arrogantly and did not listen to Your commandments but sinned against Your ordinances, By which if a man observes them he shall live. And they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck, and would not listen.

2 (vv. 4-37) h. God's leaders recognized that their fathers acted arrogantly in the face of God's great compassion. (vv. 26-29)

A right view of God produces humility;
a distorted view of ourselves produces arrogance.



Nehemiah 9:30 “However, You bore with them for many years,
And admonished them by Your Spirit through Your prophets,
Yet they would not give ear.

Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

31 “Nevertheless, in Your great compassion You did not make an end of them or forsake them, For You are a gracious and compassionate God.

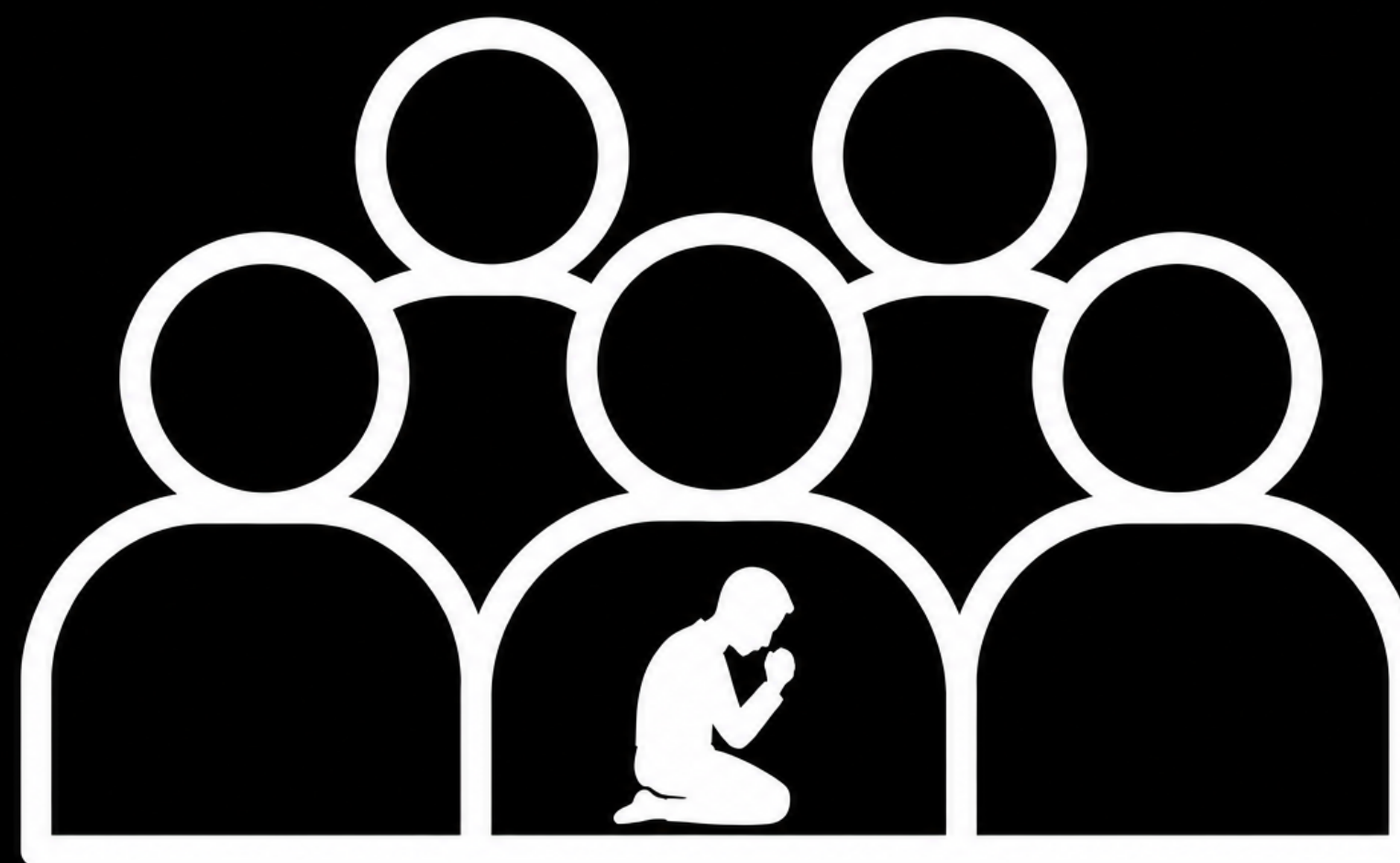
2. God’s leaders led the people in prayer, remembering that God had dealt faithfully and the people had acted wickedly. (vv. 4-37)

i. God’s leaders recognized that God did not make an end of them because He is a gracious and compassionate God. (vv. 30-31)

Nehemiah 9:32 “Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness,
Do not let all the hardship seem insignificant before You,
Which has come upon us, our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets,
our fathers and on all Your people,
From the days of the kings of Assyria to this day.
33 “However, You are just in all that has come upon us;
For You have dealt faithfully, but we have acted wickedly.

2. God's leaders led the people in prayer, remembering that God had dealt faithfully and the people had acted wickedly. (vv. 4-37) (32-33)

Joy in God's goodness and
honest confession of our sin belong together.



Nehemiah 9:34 “For our kings, our leaders, our priests and our fathers have not kept Your law

Or paid attention to Your commandments and Your admonitions with which You have admonished them.

35 “But they, in their own kingdom, With Your great goodness which You gave them, With the broad and rich land which You set before them, Did not serve You or turn from their evil deeds.

36 “Behold, we are slaves today, And as to the land which You gave to our fathers to eat of its fruit and its bounty, Behold, we are slaves in it.

37 “Its abundant produce is for the kings Whom You have set over us because of our sins; They also rule over our bodies And over our cattle as they please, So we are in great distress.

2 (vv. 4-37) j. God’s leaders recognized that their fathers did not serve God or turn from evil ways. (vv. 34-37)

Nehemiah 9:38 “Now because of all this **We are making an agreement in writing**; And on the sealed document are the names of our leaders, our Levites and our priests.”

3. Because of all this, God’s people committed themselves to an agreement. (v. 38)

When I say: What has God done for His people?

Let's all say: He has created us, chosen us, led us, provided for us, and shown us great compassion.

When I say: How have God's people responded to His faithfulness?

Let's all say: We have acted wickedly and turned away from God.

When I say: What is God like?

Let's all say: He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.

When I say: What do we confess?

Let's all say: You have dealt faithfully, but we have acted wickedly.

When I say: Then what shall we do?

Let's all say: We will arise and bless the LORD our God!

GOD'S KINGDOM WORK

FOLLOWING CHRIST

MATURING TOGETHER

MULTIPLYING GENERATIONS

LOVE / KNOW

SPEAK (THE TRUTH)

DO

THINK BIG

START SMALL

GO SLOW

BUILD DEEP

PRAYER

BY HIS GRACE

DONE IN LOVE

FOR HIS GLORY

GOD'S WORD

Our wickedness needs to be confessed,
and God's faithfulness needs to be remembered.

Here is what we can do together as fellow workers:

This week,

“Pray that we will not minimize our wickedness
and that we will not forget God’s faithfulness.”

