**The Great, Mighty, Awesome God**

**Sermon Based Discussion (October 30, 2016)**

**Strengthen Our Hands (Nehemiah)**

**WARM UP**

1. Can you share about an experience in which you learned the value of putting an agreement in writing?

*In this passage, the people of ancient Israel were motivated to recommit themselves to living for God because of His faithfulness towards them. In this session, we will consider how to keep on turning towards God in joyful obedience to His commands.*

**INTO THE BIBLE (Nehemiah 9-10)**

1. The people offer a prayer (9:4-37) confessing their many failures as well as recounting God’s many favors. What does this prayer reveal about the pride and stubbornness of humanity?

What does this prayer reveal about the character and nature of God?

1. Israel identified specific promises in their agreement with God (10:28-39). What were they and why are they significant?

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. Israel offers a lengthy prayer of confession of their faults and God’s faithfulness. Why is confession vital for reconciliation with God, and how does confessing our sins benefit us?
2. Imagine a friend comes to you after a long period of living to please self rather than God. Like the younger son in the parable of the prodigal (Luke 15), he/she expresses a desire to “come back” to God. What would you say to this person to encourage or aid them to get back with God?

**DIFFERENCE**

1. If you were to write out your spiritual history, how would it be similar and/or different to Israel’s?
2. What are some specific ways God has revealed His love and mercy towards you?

**APPLICATION**

1. When in your life have difficult circumstances motivated you to recommit yourself to God? Do you need to so now? If so, in what specific areas?
2. Is it helpful to write out spiritual commitments—why or why not? What commitment would you like to write out and agree to in your relationship with God?