



March 4, 2018

Main Texts: Nehemiah 9:1-3; Luke 15: 11-31

### Optional Ice Breaker

Play a game of "Truth or Lie!" Divide your group into 2 teams. Have one team start the game by asking a team member to tell a story about themselves. This story can be true or false as long as the story teller is the main character. Once the story is told, the other team must decide together if it was true or a lie. If they guess correctly, they get a point. Alternate between the teams & players until every player gets to tell a story or until a time limit is reached. The team with the most correct guesses will win the game.

### The BIG IDEA

Understanding the power of confessing sin.

### Getting in the Word

In Nehemiah 1 we learn that the nation has been captured and conquered because of their constant sin. As a group, read Nehemiah 9:1-3. Obviously, their attitude toward sin has changed over the last 9 chapters! What is so important about confessing sin? Why is it essential to the Christian life?

Jesus gives a perfect parable on the danger of sin as well as the freedom of confession. As a group read Luke 15:11-31. When you've finished reading, ask someone to summarize the story in their own words. Who are the main characters in this story, and who might they symbolize?

From this story, who initiated a confession (vv. 17-19)? Who initiated forgiveness (v. 20)? How does this example of confession and forgiveness reflect our relationship to God?

There is a lesser known conflict in this story, which has to deal with the older son. What sins would you say the older son has (vv.25-28)? Is it possible this older son symbolizes certain dutiful, church-going people? Why or why not?

Though both sons are guilty of sin, their father loves them and pursues them both. What does this say about God? As a sinner, why is this important to know?

We know the younger son repented and was restored back to the family; however, we don't know what happens to the older son. If the older son never confesses his anger and never goes back into the house, would you blame the father for losing this relationship? Why not? In the same train of thought, what is the risk we all take by not confessing our sins?

Why is confession so hard? What is stopping you from confessing sin to God?