






Small Group/ Reflection Notes

	04-07-2021	A game of two halves	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you have any predictions about the outcomes of this summer's sporting events: football / Wimbledon / Olympics ...?		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> What have been some of the challenges you've faced in this first half of 2021? <input type="checkbox"/> What have been the highlights of the first half of 2021 for you?		
 Read	Nehemiah 9:1-37	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Talks
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> V.1: How did the Israelites show their remorse in a physical way? Is there a 21 st century equivalent? <input type="checkbox"/> V.3: Look at how the time during the day was divided – what was given priority and why do you think this was? Confession and worship go hand in hand on this day: how does one lead to the other? <input type="checkbox"/> V.5 – Why do the Levites tell the people to stand up for their confession? Is this why we stand up to sing praise? <input type="checkbox"/> Vs. 5-6: How do the Levites lead the worship? How does beginning the confession with a declaration like this help to put our own lives into perspective? Can you think of worship songs / hymns / psalms which help you to worship God in this way? Take a moment to think about the words and / or listen. <input type="checkbox"/> Vs. 7-36: the Levites remember God's faithfulness to their ancestors – what would this look like for us as a church and for you personally (see <i>Do</i> section below)? <input type="checkbox"/> Who or what prompts the confession of sin for the Israelites? What are the sins of their ancestors which they confess? What might be the ones we need to confess as a community, nation or generation? <input type="checkbox"/> What aspects of God's character are highlighted in the confession itself (particularly. Vs. 17, 19, 27, 31, 33)? When have you seen these in your experiences? Have you seen others too?		
 Go further	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Romans 10:5-13: why does Paul emphasise the importance of confessing our faith? What does he mean by confession here? <input type="checkbox"/> Look at verse 10: what are the two halves of confession here? Why are both needful? <input type="checkbox"/> Read 1 John 1:9 – take some time to reflect and confess to God any sin which enslaves or ensnares you; know His grace and liberation.		
 Reflect	<input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> What is God putting on <i>your</i> heart?		

 Do	<input type="checkbox"/> Verses 7-37 describe the Israelites' experiences and trace God's presence with them: spend some time writing your own confession of God's hand in your experiences, either in recent times or throughout your life.
 Pray	<i>Lord God, I recognise your power in creation through _____. I have seen you at work in my life when _____. I confess that I have not always been faithful. Please create a clean heart in me and help me _____. Amen.</i>
 My questions:	

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
 Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk

Small Group/ Reflection notes written by Ruth McIntosh.