



DEVOTION: May 28

Refresh Your Family
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Israelite families had been impacted by the Babylonian captivity and the return to Jerusalem.

The various transitions and the influence of cultural differences were taking their toll. Thus, we are not surprised to discover that the decision to “refresh” the covenant with God was a family affair.

According to Nehemiah 10:28, “*sons and daughters, all those who had knowledge and understanding*” were to be involved in the covenant renewal. The inclusion of “*sons and daughters*” placed a responsibility upon the parents to explain the covenant under which Israel lived with the one true God. The inclusion of children was essential for the continuity of the faith commitment of Israel.

The text gives us several clues concerning what would have been discussed by the families in preparation for this covenant renewal. Notice the emphasis on separation from the peoples of the land.

“*Separation*” for Israel was not a negative isolationism; it was a positive orientation of all of life toward holy God. They had chosen to separate themselves for service to the King. Such a choice meant they would separate themselves from the values and beliefs of the world that are contrary to the Word of God.

The family in our day is under attack, and we would be wise to learn from the covenant renewal made by the Israelites under Nehemiah’s leadership.

- Talk with your children about your faith and your desire to refresh the family.
- Start or improve your family devotional time.
- Discuss what it means to have a Christian worldview.
- Find some kingdom activity to undertake as a family.

Pray for and with your children about their future Christian spouse.

SCRIPTURES

Nehemiah 10