

## Study Guide

### Nehemiah Chapter 8

The wall is completed and the gates are hung (repairing the breach). The enemy has been pushed back but the people of God are scattered in surrounding towns. Now Nehemiah takes some intentional steps to restoring the community. Let's look at what he does.

#### **Corporate Worship is Restored**

1. Read Nehemiah 8:1-8.

Notice how the people gather and what they do. Share your observations. What are the results (v.6)? How can we find joy in unity? What has it meant for you to "understand" the word of God?

#### **Joy is Restored**

2. Read Nehemiah 8:9-12.

Why do you think the people were weeping? (see also Deut. 11:13-16). How does the joy of the Lord become our strength? How can joy be restored in lives that have been affected by sin?

#### **Healthy Practices are Restored**

3. Read Nehemiah 8:13-18.

How could the feast of booths help the community not get too obsessed with "things"? How do principle-based practices keep us from living feeling-based lives? What are some of your favorite healthy practices or rhythms?

#### **Application**

When it comes to being part of a restored community, what do you feel that God is leading you to stop, continue or start?

## Message Slides

### **Repair the Breach for the Greatness of God!!**

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**Image:** (Stop and Pray; Be Honest with Yourself; Ask for Help; Let go of power and control; Close the Gates).

### **Restore the Community**

"Then my God put it into my heart to assemble ..." Nehemiah 7:5a

>each on mouse click<

1. Who's here? (v.6-65)
2. Who's in? (v.70-73)

**Big Idea: There is Great Joy in Restoration!**

### **I. Corporate Worship is Restored (8:1-8)**

"And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel."

#### **A. We gather in unity!**

>on mouse click<

#### **B. We gather around Jesus!**

>on mouse click<

Revelation 22:1

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God..."

#### **C. We gather to Understand God's words! (v. 2-8)**

<sup>2</sup>So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

#### ***Understanding is a Gift!***

Eph. 1:18- ...enlightening of the eyes of the heart

2 Cor. 4:6- ...a shining into our hearts of divine glory

2 Tim. 2:5- ...a granting of truth and repentance...

Phil. 1:29- ...the giving of faith...

Eph. 2:5-6- ...a raising from the dead...

1 Pet. 1:23- ...a new birth by the word

Luke 8:10- ...being given the secret of the kingdom of heaven

## D. We gather in Respect of God's words! (v. 2-8)

⁴And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

### God is Exalted (v.6)

And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

### Multiplication happens (v.7-8)

Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

## II. Joy is Restored (v.9-12)

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." ¹¹So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." ¹²And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

**Deut. 11:13-16**

“And if you will indeed obey ...to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart ...he will give the rain ...grain ... wine ... oil ... livestock, and you shall eat and be full. <sup>16</sup>Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them.”

**Big Idea: There is Great Joy in Restoration!****III. Healthy Practices are Restored (v.13-18)**

<sup>13</sup>On the second day the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to Ezra the scribe in order to study the words of the Law. <sup>14</sup>And they found it written in the Law that the Lord had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month, <sup>15</sup>and that they should proclaim it and publish it in all their towns and in Jerusalem, “Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.” <sup>16</sup>So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. <sup>17</sup>And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing. <sup>18</sup>And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. They kept the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the rule.

**Big Idea: There is Great Joy in Restoration!****For Reflection**

When it comes to being part of a restored community, what do you feel that God is leading you to stop, continue or start?