

## Study Guide

### Nehemiah Chapter 12

The completed wall is dedicated on this day! It symbolizes the assigned purpose that we all have from God. The remnant nation takes intentional steps to commit the wall and their lives over to God. What they do is counter-cultural, but it leads to supernatural joy from God. Let's look closer at what leads to this joy.

#### 1. Joy Because Names Matter (v.1-26)

*"These are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, <sup>2</sup>Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, <sup>3</sup>Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, <sup>4</sup>Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, <sup>5</sup>Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, <sup>6</sup>Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah, <sup>7</sup>Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These were the chiefs of the priests and of their brothers in the days of Jeshua...<sup>8</sup>These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra, the priest and scribe."*

Discuss the following concepts:

##### a. Names Tie us to the Great Story of God

Note that Zerubbabel (100 years prior) was not a part of the completion of the wall and yet he was part of the final story. How does that make you feel with the parts of your life that feel incomplete?

##### b. Names are Personal to God

Why is it important for you to know that God knows your name, and that He has personal plans for you? According to Revelation 2:17 *"To the one who overcomes ...I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it."* Discuss the personal nature of God with each of us.

2. Discuss the concept that joy is preceded by intentionality. The remnant nation took four intentional steps before they erupted in joy (v.43)!

- a. Being present for dedication (v.27-29)
- b. Being purified (v.30)
- c. Giving thanks (v.31-42)
- d. Being generous (v.43a), despite their poverty (9:36-37).

How are each of these steps counter-cultural? How can we be more intentional with each of these steps in our own lives? How can these steps lead to more joy in our lives? Is there one step you can take?

3. Read Nehemiah 12:43.

*"And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away."*

Have you ever experienced God give you great joy? What were the circumstances? How can the joy of the Lord become a draw for people who are far from God?

**Application-** Take a few moments to dedicate yourself to God. Commit yourself to Him.

## Message Slides

Chapter 1-7- Repair the Breach

Chapter 8-13- Restore the Community

### Big Idea: There is Great Joy in Dedication

#### I. Joy Because Names Matter (v.1-26)

These are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, <sup>2</sup>Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, <sup>3</sup>Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, <sup>4</sup>Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, <sup>5</sup>Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, <sup>6</sup>Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah, <sup>7</sup>Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These were the chiefs of the priests and of their brothers in the days of Jeshua...<sup>26</sup>These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra, the priest and scribe.

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##### A. Names Tie us to the Great Story of God

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##### B. Names are Personal to God

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Rev. 2:17

"To the one who overcomes ...I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it."

### Big Idea: There is Great Joy in Dedication

#### II. Joy Preceded by Intentional Choices (v. 27-43)

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##### A. Presence Precedes Joy (v.27-29)

“And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres. <sup>28</sup>And the sons of the singers gathered together from the district surrounding Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites; <sup>29</sup>also from Beth-gilgal and from the region of Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built for themselves villages around Jerusalem.”

### **B. Purification Precedes Joy (v. 30)**

“And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and they purified the people and the gates and the wall.”

### **C. Thanksgiving Precedes Joy (v. 31-42)**

“Then I brought the leaders of Judah up onto the wall and appointed two great choirs that gave thanks. One went to the south on the wall to the Dung Gate...·

<sup>38</sup>The other choir of those who gave thanks went to the north, ... <sup>40</sup>So both choirs of those who gave thanks stood in the house of God, ...”

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**See image of the completed wall.**

### **D. Generosity Precedes Joy (v.43a)**

“And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, ...”

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Nehemiah 9:36-37

“Behold, we are slaves this day; in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves. <sup>37</sup>And its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our livestock as they please, and we are in great distress.”

### **Big Idea: There is Great Joy in Dedication (v.43)**

“And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.”

### **Image of Field**

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Luke 8:14

“And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.”