

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

NEHEMIAH: BUILDING BEYOND THE WALLS

Nehemiah 7-8

Ice-breaker: Other than the Bible, what's your desert island book?

DISCUSSION 1: UPDATES

1. How have you or your family been dealing with this season the last week or two? What's been challenging or how have you felt the affects?
2. Has there been a verse, truth, promise, or thought that's comforted or encouraged you recently? Have you seen God at work through this situation in any ways?

DISCUSSION 2: GATHER & LISTEN EXPECTANTLY

1. If you were in a place without Bibles or were forced to go years without having one of your own, how might you feel or act once it was made available again? Why would you feel this way?
2. In Nehemiah 8:1-6, what are some of the actions we see the people doing? Find at least six things.
3. What are ways we might approach the Bible, whether during the week or on Sunday mornings, with apathy or not expectantly? What are some reasons for this?
4. What are ways we could increase our attentive, expectancy, and intentionality when it comes to reading or hearing God's Word, both during the week and in church gathering?
5. What spiritual rubble and debris (or distractions and obstacles) do you need to clear out of your heart in order to fully receive the Word and what God is trying to teach you right now?

DISCUSSION 3: STUDYING GOD'S WORD

1. The people respond to God's Word with worship, prayer, humbly receiving it, with celebration, and with weeping (8:6, 9, 18). Why should God's Word draw a response from us and not just hearing without doing something?
2. In 8:7-8 and 8:12 we see the importance of not just reading the Bible but seeking to better understand it. What are some of the challenges you experience when it comes to Bible study?
3. Are there ways this group might encourage you or help you in your Bible study? What is one way you could study God's Word with more depth and intentionality? In what ways can you improve on digesting the Word of God or meditating on it throughout the day?

DISCUSSION 4: JOY AND STRENGTH

1. Why would this day in Nehemiah 8 have been a cause for not grieving (8:10)? How does this relate to God giving us joy?
2. What do you think it means for "the joy of the Lord to be your strength" during this season we're in?
3. What's one way we can pray for you to find greater joy or greater strength through the Lord right now?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Why is the valuable such a valuable book? What would be some of the consequences if we didn't have God's Word?
2. How can we thank God for giving us his Word? How can we approach God's Word with more attentiveness and excitement?
3. There are many people around the world who don't have a Bible in their language. Should that concern us or should we want to do something about this? What are ways we can pray or act to help others have God's Word in their own language?