

October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024Scripture Read  
Nehemiah 8

...All the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. <sup>2</sup>So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. <sup>3</sup>He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. – Nehemiah 8:1-3

### REVIEW

- The wall is completed. (6:15-7:3)

There is a \_\_\_\_\_ effort to help all the people understand. Neh. 8:2-3; 7-8

The \_\_\_\_\_ response is grief to the point of weeping. Neh. 8:9-11

The instruction, however, is to \_\_\_\_\_.  
Neh. 8:10-18

### What reminders do we need help understanding?

- The joy of the Lord is our \_\_\_\_\_. Neh. 8:10
- The strength of our relationship is built on the \_\_\_\_\_. Neh. 8:13-17; John 1:1-15
- The Son restores us to a relationship built on \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.  
John 1:16-18; Gen. 1:26-28

### TALK IT OVER

*Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.*

What stood out most in the message to you regarding something that you learned, challenged you, or that you disagreed with? And, in what ways can you see these truths being lived out in your relationships and life this week?

Reread Nehemiah 8:8-11. Compare and contrast the communal response of the people with the clarity and instructions given by Ezra, Nehemiah, and the leaders. How do you interpret this?

Reflect on your own experience of reading through Scripture. Describe times when you have felt convicted, even grieved. Why are those times important?

Considering those times, why is it important to remember that the awareness of God's grace (aka, joy) – made known in Christ Jesus – is ultimately a reason to celebrate?

The people celebrated with good food, drinks, and (essentially) campouts. Reflect on Jesus making his dwelling ("tabernacling"; John 1:1-15) among us and giving us the celebration of communion. Compare and contrast the story of Ezra-Nehemiah with the Gospel.

Compare and contrast a relationship with God fueled by stewardship rather than shame. What continues to change when we think about having a restored relationship that is based on getting to do our very best with all we've been given in Christ?

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## REVIEW

- The wall is completed. (6:15-7:3)

There is a **CONCERTED** effort to help all the people understand. Neh. 8:2-3; 7-8

The **COMMUNAL** response is grief to the point of weeping. Neh. 8:9-11

The instruction, however, is to **CELEBRATE**.  
Neh. 8:10-18

## What reminders do we need help understanding?

- The joy of the Lord is our **STRENGTH**. Neh. 8:10
- The strength of our relationship is built on the **SON**. Neh. 8:13-17; John 1:1-15
- The Son restores us to a relationship built on **STEWARDSHIP**, not **SHAME**. John 1:16-18; Gen. 1:26-28

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