



NEHEMIAH

Re: BUILD
Re: NEW
Re: FORM

Re: GROUP

Discussion Guide: The Renewal of God's People

Nehemiah 8:1-12

Warm-Up Question

- What's the most powerful message or truth from God's Word you've heard recently? What made it so impactful?

I. God's People Called for His Word (vv. 1–2)

Read Nehemiah 8:1–2

1. What does it mean that “the people gathered as one man”? Why is unity important when seeking God?
2. The people *asked* for the Book of the Law. Why do you think that desire arose in them at this time?
3. Why is it significant that this happened on the first day of the seventh month (a feast day)? What connection do you see between worship and remembrance?

Reflection Question

- Are you currently in a season of craving God's Word, or struggling to? What might help you grow in spiritual hunger?

II. God's People Learn His Word (vv. 3–8)

Read Nehemiah 8:3–8

4. What stands out to you about the way the people responded to the reading of the Law? (Consider their attentiveness, the length of time, and who was present.)
5. How would you describe your own attentiveness when the Word of God is read or taught?
6. Why is *understanding* Scripture more important than just *reading* it? How do you usually go about seeking understanding?

Reflection Question

- Can you share a time when Scripture became clear to you in a way that changed your thinking or actions?

III. God's People Respond to His Word (vv. 5–12)

Read Nehemiah 8:5–12

7. What physical and emotional responses did the people have to the reading of the Law? Why do you think they wept?
8. Why were they told not to mourn but to rejoice instead? What does this teach us about God's grace?
9. What does “the joy of the Lord is your strength” mean in the context of this passage—and in your own life?

Reflection Questions

- When was the last time God's Word moved you deeply—maybe even to tears?
- How can we cultivate both reverence and joy in our personal and communal worship?

Application

10. The people celebrated and shared with others as a response to understanding God's Word. What is one way you can share spiritual joy or truth with someone this week?
11. How can your small group encourage one another to develop a deeper hunger and understanding of God's Word?

Closing Prayer Prompt

Ask the Holy Spirit to give your group a deeper desire for His Word and the strength to obey what He reveals. Pray for unity, understanding, and joy in your spiritual walk.