

SESSION 7



NEHEMIAH 8:1-18

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(Questions written by Jordan Kelly)

READ NEHEMIAH 8:1-18

Even after the physical wall is rebuilt, God's work for His people isn't done. This chapter tells an amazing story of the inner renewal in God's people through the transforming power of God's Word. Especially noteworthy in this chapter is the emphasis on teaching God's Word (vv. 2-3, 8), the repeated mention that the people were listening attentively (vv. 3, 13), and the joyful response they experienced (vv. 12, 17).

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How long did the Israelites come together as one at the Water Gate? What were they doing while they were there?

2. Are there ways this challenges your own approach to God's Word?
How so?

3. Why were the Israelites weeping in verse 9?

4. What is the significance of the Law of Moses, and why was it important for Ezra to read from this?

5. We see that the Word of God not only convicts us (verse 9) but also brings us to rejoice! In what ways can the Bible bring us joy in all circumstances?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** If you could pick a half a day and do anything you wanted, what would you do? Why?
- 2.** We see that it's not Ezra that calls for the Law to be read, but the people (verse 1). What does it look like to desire the Word of God as a church community? What would be the result if a church did this consistently?
- 3.** How important is community in understanding the Word of God (verse 7)? What role does the community play?
- 4.** What are reasons why the Word of God does not cause us to rejoice?
- 5.** In verse 18, we see that the Israelites read the Law, "day by day." How can you form (or sustain) a habit of making God's Word a priority in your life, on a daily basis?
- 6.** What is one big take-away you're leaving with from Nehemiah 8:1-18? How can this influence your life practically this coming week?



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