



# Study Questions

# A Restored Heart (Week 1)

Read Nehemiah Chapter 1

A Restored Heart...

**Seeks the Truth.** What has God revealed to you in the world around you that causes you to have a heart check? What about in your city? In our church?

**Trusts in God's Faithfulness.** How has God shown his faithfulness in your life?

**Takes Personal Responsibility.** What burdens has God placed on your heart where you feel an obligation to step in and get involved?

**Holds Fast to God's Promises.** Jesus promised to build his church and that hell would not prevail against it. How does this promise encourage you as you consider your part in his church?

**Prepares for Action.** What actions do you sense God leading you to take as you consider your role in his church?

# A Restored Vision (Week 2)

Read Nehemiah 2:1-8

A Restored Vision...

**Can't be Contained.** What burdens has God placed on your heart that you can't hold in?

**Addresses Real Needs.** What real needs do you see as you look around your life? Your family? Our church? How can these needs be met?

**Relies on God's Strength.** Why is it important that we rely on God's strength, and not merely our own?

**Has a Specific Action Plan.** Our mission as a church is *helping people connect to God and to each other in every neighborhood*. What specific actions do you sense God desires for you to take in order to make this mission part of your everyday life?

# A Restored Purpose (Week 3)

Read Nehemiah 2:9-20

A Restored Purpose...

**Will Encounter Opposition (2:9-10)** - What opposition do you face in your life as you seek to live on mission for God? What opposition can we expect to face as a church?

**Deals with Concrete Realities (2:11-16)** - What happens when the people of God get focused on right belief at the expense of right actions? Why is it important that we deal with real problems as the people of God?

**Rallies Others to the Cause (2:17-18)** - In our individualistic society, we often try to go it alone. But Christianity is a community endeavor. How are you growing deeper in community? How can you invite others to join you in going deeper?

**Trusts God's Perspective Over Man's (2:19-20)** - How can we determine what God's perspective is on a situation? Why is it critical that we listen to what God says, rather than what those who oppose us might say?

# A Restored Community (Week 4)

Read Nehemiah 3:1-5, 14, 31-32

In A Restored Community...

**Leaders Set The Pace** - Ephesians 4:11-12 says “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” What does this verse teach us about the roles of leadership in the church and their importance? Who are the “saints” and what is their responsibility according to this verse?

**Diverse People Work Side By Side** - Scan through Nehemiah 3 again and note the various kinds of people. They are from different genders, cities, occupations, and socio-economic statuses. Why does it take a diverse people to accomplish the work of God?

**Everyone Does Their Part** - In Nehemiah 3:5 the nobles stand out for their lack of participation in the work of God. What message does it send to others if people in the church are not participating in the work of the church? How can you encourage others to find their fit and begin or continue serving the Body of Christ?

**God Grants Success** - God is hardly mentioned in Chapter 3 of Nehemiah. How do we know from the surrounding context that it was God who made the work successful? How can we rely on God’s strength for success as we do our part to serve the Body of Christ?

# A Restored Courage (Week 5)

Nehemiah 4:1-23; 6:1-14

A Restored Courage...

**Is Certain to Face Opposition** - Read 4:1-3. How would you describe the mocking that takes place against the Jews by Sanballat and Tobiah? Have you faced similar taunts or accusations in your life? Should the church of Jesus Christ expect to face similar opposition?

Read 4:4-5. Where do the mocked Israelites turn for strength in the face of opposition? Why is this a critical component of real courage?

**Finds Strength in the Lord** - Read 4:10-14. The resolve of the people is failing and some begin to cry out for a return home rather than finishing the work. How does Nehemiah respond? How can we learn from his example when we find ourselves struggling against opposition?

**Responds with Boldness** - Read 4:15. Why do the people return to their work? What makes Nehemiah so bold in the face of opposition?

What external opposition might we face as the body of Christ? What about internally? How can we courageously respond to opposition when it appears?

# A Restored Generosity (Week 6)

A Restored Generosity...

**Will be ultimately guided by TRUSTING God and FOLLOWING His word.** – Read, Nehemiah 5: 1-5, Deuteronomy 23:19-20 and Leviticus 25:36-37. What do we see happening here with the people of Jerusalem? What is motivating the actions of the Jewish leaders?

**Has God's heart for God's people** – Read Nehemiah 5:6-7. How does Nehemiah react to the “outcry” of the people? What causes Nehemiah to react this way? What distinguishes Nehemiah's reaction to the people's position from that of the Jewish leaders?

**Recognizes the needs of others** - Read Nehemiah 5:8-13. Nehemiah has multiple times in this story identified a need and made a plan to meet that need. What is Nehemiah's plan to meet the need of the people?

We talked about three potential pitfalls to recognizing the needs of others...

- 1) Absence/ Unawareness vs. Presence/Awareness
- 2) Greed vs. Selflessness
- 3) Indifference vs Compassion

How do we see these in the Jewish leaders? How do we see Nehemiah overcome these pitfalls? What are ways we can be more PRESENT, SELFLESS, and COMPASSIONATE towards our families, neighborhoods and church body?

What needs do you see in your family, your neighborhood and your church body in the following areas.

- 1) Physical Needs - Need for Food, Shelter, Clothing...
- 2) Relational Needs – Need for Love
- 3) Spiritual Needs – Need for God

**Is an example of God's love** - Read Nehemiah 5:14-18, Philippians 2:1-11. Here we see Nehemiah's "moral authority". Why is this significant? How does Nehemiah use his moral authority? How does Nehemiah's example show God's love?

Finally we see Nehemiah as a "type" of Christ, an example of holiness that we later see completely fulfilled in Jesus. In Philippians 2 we see Jesus as our ultimate example of generosity. How can we show God's love to our families, our neighbors, and our church body by following the example of Jesus?

# A Restored Confidence (Week 7)

Nehemiah 6:15-7:73 - A Restored Confidence...

## **Finds Strength in God's Presence and Power** - Read 6:15-19.

- How have you seen God's faithfulness in your life in the past?
- What have you seen accomplished that could only be explained because of "the help of our God?"
- Have you ever experienced your motives being questioned and your character attacked, even by those close to you? How did you endure? How did God show his faithfulness to you, even during that difficult time?

## **Focuses on Cultivating Forward Momentum** - Read 7:1-4

- Hananiah was "a more faithful and God-fearing man than many." How does he contrast with the nobles of Judah in 6:17?
- Who has been a "Hananiah" in your life? Someone faithful, dependable, and God-fearing who encouraged you?
- How does someone become more like a Hananiah?

## **Invests in the Ongoing Mission** - Read 7:70-72

- The people gave of their time to the work. Giving of our time isn't just about quantity, but quality. How can living on God's mission shape the way we use and view all of our time?
- The people gave of their talent to the work. How are you using your gifts to serve the body? The world?
- The people gave of their treasure to the work. Biblically we're called to give proportionally, sacrificially and regularly. What steps do you sense God might want you to take to grow in generosity and financially supporting the work of ministry?

# A Restored Mind (Week 8)

## **Understands the Word** - Read Nehemiah 8:1-8

- Ezra and others taught all the people so they could understand. Why was it important that everyone had a chance to understand the word? What would be the risk for the community if only a few took the time to listen to and understand the word?
- How do you see the people expressing their reverence for the word in these verses? (especially vs. 3-6) How can or do you express reverence for the word in your life?
- In these verses, it is clear that understanding the word involves participation from everyone. How can you increase your attentiveness and participation to improve your personal understanding of the word?

## **Responds to the Word** - Read 8:9-12

- When the people understand God's word, they are convicted of their sin and shortcomings before a holy and perfect God. Why is it important for them to be convicted of their sin?
- The leaders encourage the people not to continue weeping and mourning, but to celebrate and rejoice. What specifically do they have to celebrate in light of their brokenness and sinfulness in comparison to God? What about us?

## **Obeys the Word** - Read 8:13-18

- The people recognize that they have not been celebrating the feast as God commanded. As soon as they realize this, they immediately respond with obedience. What prevents us from immediately responding with obedience to God's commands?

# A Restored Obedience (Week 9)

## **Repentance** - Read Nehemiah 9:1-4

- Reading the Word of God led to confession. How has God used his word in your life to convict you of sin?
- Read James 5:16. In Nehemiah 9, the people confess their sins to one another in community. This may sound really uncomfortable, but what are some reasons why it's important?
- Their confession is followed by worship (9:3). What is worship and why does confession come first? (Romans 12:1).

## **Remembrance** - Read Nehemiah 9:32-35

- The people take stock of the history of God's faithfulness in their midst. Why is it important to remember God's faithfulness in our lives? How has he been faithful in your life particularly?
- As the people remember God's faithfulness, they also recognize that they have been unfaithful to him over and over again. They are living with the consequences of their and their father's actions. Do repentance and forgiveness remove all of the consequences of sin? Why or why not?

## **Renewal** - Read Nehemiah 10:29

- Their conviction and repentance leads the people to four specific applications. As you grow deeper in your understanding of God's Word, what are some areas you need to give over to God's control?
- Read 2 Corinthians 3:3 and Galatians 5:14-18. In Nehemiah, the people were under God's law and did not have the gift of the Holy Spirit. How will our experience of obedience differ from theirs since we have been given his Spirit to dwell in us?

# A Restored Worship (Week 10)

Restored Worship is the product of true revival.

Elements that Lead To Revival (Background)

- 1) Restored Confidence – Nehemiah 6:15-7:73
- 2) Restored Minds – Nehemiah 8:1-18
- 3) Restored Obedience – Nehemiah 9:1-10:39

## **Read Romans 12:1-2**

How do we see worship happening as a result of the following?

- 1) **Being a living sacrifice.** We sacrifice to things we have great confidence in. Why are you willing to give your life as a “living sacrifice to God”? How does this relate to worship?
- 2) **Renewed minds.** How does a high view of scripture inform how we worship?
- 3) **Obedience to God’s will.** How does our obedience to God’s will in our lives affect how we worship?

## **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17**

Here we see what God’s will for our life is. Why do you think Rejoicing, Praying, and Giving Thanks, are God’s will for us? How is God calling us to worship him through Rejoicing, Praying, and Giving Thanks?

A Restored Worship...

## **Happens in community – Nehemiah 11:1-12:26**

Take a quick glance through this section. How do you see community in these verses?

Why do you think community is so integral to proper worship? Why has God called us to worship him corporately?

## **Celebrates what God is doing and has done- Nehemiah 12:27-47**

Nehemiah 12:43

*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.*

Here we see the people celebrate the things God has done in their lives. How do you see God working in your life, in the big things, and in the small things?

What are some ways you can celebrate and worship God regarding these?

# A Restored People (Week 11)

- What is a legacy? How is a legacy created? What impact can a positive legacy have on future generations? How about a negative legacy?
- Who is someone in your life who left you a positive legacy? How have their actions had an impact in your life?
- Nehemiah is concerned to maintain the legacy of God's people. It begins with a desire to *avoid cultural compromise*. What are some ways the people of God compromise with the culture in Nehemiah 13:4-5 and 13:15-18?
- There are two extremes to cultural compromise: **Saturation** leading to loss of **distinctiveness** and **Disengagement** leading to loss of **influence**. Why is it important that Christians do not become completely saturated in the prevailing culture? Why is it critical that Christians avoid complete disengagement from and avoidance of the dominant culture?
- Read Nehemiah 13:10-12. In Nehemiah's day, the people neglected to *support the ministers and ministry*. What do the Priests and Levites do in response to the lack of support? What is Nehemiah's solution?
- To support the ministry and mission of God means more than just giving financially, though this is a critical element. What other ways can and should the people of God support and ministry and mission with their own lives? Are you living on mission for God in every area of your life? Why or why not?

- Read Nehemiah 13:23-24. What's the big deal if the Jewish children couldn't speak the language of Judah? Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7. If the children of the Jews weren't learning the language, what are the chances they were learning God's word from their parents? How do the lifestyle choices of parents have an impact on their children (for good or ill?).
- A lasting legacy requires *investment in the next generation*. Whether or not you have children of your own, what are some ways you can invest in the next generation?