

NEHEMIAH: A TIME TO BUILD

Part 6: The Core of Our City

August 15, 2021

TEACHING NOTES

MAIN TEXT: Nehemiah 8-12

A. BY CH. 8, JERUSALEM WAS A "SUCCESSFUL" CITY:

1. Physical _____ (ch. 6:15)
2. Growing _____ (ch. 7:1-69)
3. Economic _____ (ch. 7:70-72)
4. Equal _____ (ch. 5:10-12)
5. Good _____ (ch. 7:2)

B. WHATEVER FILLS THE _____ OF YOUR LIFE WILL DETERMINE THE
_____ OF YOUR LIFE.

C. 3 ESSENTIALS EVERY COMMUNITY NEEDS AT ITS CORE:

1. Love _____. (See 8:1-9, 12)

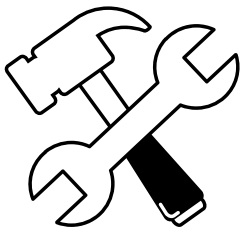
- Nehemiah 8:3, *He [Ezra] read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.*

2. Open _____ and _____. (See 9:1-3 & 10:29)

- Nehemiah 9:1-2, *On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and putting dust on their heads...They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the sins of their ancestors.*
- Nehemiah 10:28a, 29, *The rest of the people...join their fellow Israelites the nobles, and bind themselves with a curse and an oath to follow the Law of God given through Moses the servant of God and to obey carefully all the commands, regulations and decrees of the Lord our Lord.*

3. Ongoing _____. (See 12:27, 30-40)

- Nehemiah 12:31, 38, *I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of[o] the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks. One was to proceed on top of the wall to the right, toward the Dung Gate. The second choir proceeded in the opposite direction. I followed them on top of the wall...*



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DISCUSSION

Read & Discuss

Read through the main scripture(s) from the lesson and the Teaching Notes on the back.

Scripture(s): Nehemiah 8:1-12

1. What stood out to you from the scripture or the lesson?
2. What do these scriptures tell us about God?
3. What do they tell us about people?

GOING DEEPER

Reflect

1. What was the initial response of the people when they heard the word of God? What were your thoughts on how Nehemiah and Ezra responded to the people?
2. The people in the story quickly went from "grieving" to "gladness". While we never want to make light of the seriousness of sin, do we sometimes let the grief of what we did overcome our gladness for what God did? If so, is that an appropriate response?
3. How did you see **God** work last week?
4. How is the **Spirit** calling you to be obedient to what you read this week?
5. Who is on your heart to share **Jesus** with this week?

Pray

1. What can you thank God for?
2. What can you ask God to help with?
3. How can God help you be obedient to His word this week?

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

During the month of August we want to have a time of prayer and fasting. This week we want you to be in prayer for how we can reach the next person for Jesus where we work and where we play.