



NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 8 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What's the best celebration you have ever been a part of? What or who made it the best?

- Describe the worst "party" you have ever been to. What or who made it that way?

- Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (Nehemiah 8:1-18)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Nehemiah 8:1-3

- Notice that the text states that the people were attentively listening to the Book of the Law as Ezra the priest was reading it. What does this indicate about the people?
 - It indicates that they were ready and willing to hear from the Lord.
 - It indicates that they made time to hear from the Lord.

- It indicates that the word of the Lord was extremely important to them.
 - In what ways do you daily prepare your heart and mind to hear from God? What hinders you from this preparation?
 - Do you look forward to hearing from God? Why or why not?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Nehemiah 8:4-12

- Why is it significant that all the people stood up in verse 5 when Ezra opened up the Book of the Law?
 - It wasn't so much that the people were showing respect for the Book of the Law itself but that they were showing respect and paying honor to the One responsible for the Book of the Law. They were eager to hear what God had for them. While they didn't know what God was going to tell them, they knew it would be good.
 - What do you think verse 5 and verse 9 should teach us today about how we receive and engage God's word?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Notice that Nehemiah not only leads the people but also encourages the people in celebrating God and what He has empowered them to do. Consider the following questions.
 - Are you extremely familiar with celebrating God? Why or why not?
 - Do you believe you celebrate God well? How do you know?
 - How can you more fully encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ to celebrate God well?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Nehemiah 8:13-18

- What was the significance of the people making and going to live in temporary shelters during the festival?

- Their actions were in accordance with what God had commanded in Leviticus 23:33-44 (the Feast of Tabernacles) to remember and celebrate how God had provided for the Israelites when they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years while leading them to the Promised Land.
 - Why is it important to daily remember and celebrate not only what God is doing but also what God has done for you?
 - What hinders us from remembering and celebrating what God has done for us?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Nehemiah Chapter 9)



NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 8 (STUDENT)

Discussion Starter

- What's the best celebration you have ever been a part of? What or who made it the best?

- Describe the worst "party" you have ever been to. What or who made it that way?

- Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (Nehemiah 8:1-18)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Nehemiah 8:1-3

- Notice that the text states that the people were attentively listening to the Book of the Law as Ezra the priest was reading it. What does this indicate about the people?
 - In what ways do you daily prepare your heart and mind to hear from God? What hinders you from this preparation?

 - Do you look forward to hearing from God? Why or why not?

Nehemiah 8:4-12

- Why is it significant that all the people stood up in verse 5 when Ezra opened up the Book of the Law?
 - What do you think verse 5 and verse 9 should teach us today about how we receive and engage God's word?

- Notice that Nehemiah not only leads the people but also encourages the people in celebrating God and what He has empowered them to do. Consider the following questions.
 - Are you extremely familiar with celebrating God? Why or why not?
 - Do you believe you celebrate God well? How do you know?
 - How can you more fully encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ to celebrate God well?

Nehemiah 8:13-18

- What was the significance of the people making and going to live in temporary shelters during the festival?
 - Why is it important to daily remember and celebrate not only what God is doing but also what God has done for you?
 - What hinders us from remembering and celebrating what God has done for us?

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

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