

A Sure Foundation

The Word of God is the foundation for any great movement of God.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Nehemiah 8:1-12

September 27, 2020

(Nehemiah 8:1-12) ¹And all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. ²So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³He 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. ⁴Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishaël, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam. ⁵Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁷The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. ⁹Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. ¹⁰Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." ¹¹The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve." ¹²Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- When was a time you sensed God leading you in a new direction in your life?
- How did you respond to this prompting?
- The main point for today's lesson is: The Word of God is the foundation for any great movement of God. Have you ever tried to make a change or be part of something big without God's Word as the foundation? What happened?

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Nehemiah 8:1-8

- How did the Jews respond to the reading of the law? Why do you think the Jews were willing to listen to the reading of the law for several hours?
- Look again at verses 5-6. Compare the people's response to God's Word with the average church congregation's response. What do you think made the difference?
- How does our view of Scripture affect our desire to read and listen to the Bible?
- Why is it important that believers today read the Word of God both alone and together?
- What are some ways we might demonstrate reverence for God's Word today?

Have a volunteer read Nehemiah 8:9-12

- What was the Israelites' response when they heard the words of the law Ezra read?

- How did Nehemiah redirect the people's response? What did they do?
- Why did the leaders direct the people from sorrow to joy? How does the joy God gives differ from the world's concept of happiness?

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- When have you recently been affected or convicted by your study of God's Word?
- Do you read the Bible every day? If so, how does it alter your day? If not, how might you make it a habit?
- Is there a particular area of your life where the Word of God doesn't seem to relate? What do you need to do to find out how God's Word matters in this area?

PRAYER: Thank God for the validity of Scripture as the primary tool of any meaningful growth and movement in your life and in the world. Thank God for the pastors, leaders and volunteers who teach God's Word each week so we are equipped to love God and evangelize the world. Ask God to help you look to His Word and respond to it in obedient faith and fervent worship.

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Nehemiah 13
 DAY 2 – Malachi 1
 DAY 3 – Malachi 2
 DAY 4 – Malachi 3
 DAY 5 – Malachi 4

KEY VERSE: Malachi 3:10

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.
 Explain what the text means.
 Apply the verse to your life.
 Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.

OUR VISION

To be a church
 for the unchurched,
 here and around the world.

ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW
 GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a
 way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.