

STUDY GUIDE

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

RESET | JOY COMES IN THE *MOURNING!*

NEHEMIAH 8-9

Note to Leaders: Every group is different, please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group from each section below.

WORK AHEAD | HOW CAN I COME PREPARED FOR MY GROUP?

1. Read Nehemiah 8-9.
2. What observations jump out as you read this section? What questions pop up?
3. Look over your message notes. What was surprising or insightful? What questions were raised?
4. If time allows, look ahead at the "Digging In" section and think through how you would contribute to your group discussion.

FOR STARTERS | THOUGHTS TO GET US ON THE SAME PAGE

1. We dare you to try and not laugh at these [Bible dad jokes](#).
2. How does the Bible affect you when you read it? Share your experience.

DIGGING IN | DISCOVERING WHAT GOD SAYS IN SCRIPTURE

1. Why should we care about reading the Bible?
 - a. Read Nehemiah 8:1-6.
 - b. What's their attitude toward the Bible in this moment?
 - c. Contrast this to the attitude of their ancestors toward the Bible in 2 Kings 17:13-18.
 - d. What had happened between these generations to account for the different attitudes toward the Bible?
 - e. Are you ever tempted to become indifferent towards the Bible? What are some ideas to keep this from happening?

2. Should reading the Bible make us mostly happy or mostly sad?
 - a. Read Nehemiah 8:10-17 and 9:1-3, 33.
 - b. What caused each of these different responses to the Bible?
 - c. Read Psalm 119:103 and Acts 16:31-34. Have you ever experienced sweet joy because of the Word of God?
 - d. Read Acts 2:37 and Hebrews 4:12. Have you felt "cut" to the heart by Scripture?
3. What is the Bible anyway?
 - a. Read Nehemiah 9:5-37.
 - b. How does this prayerful retelling of their story end? What are they still longing for?
 - c. Read Luke 24:44-46.
 - d. How does Jesus ultimately "fulfill" their deepest longings?
 - e. What does Jesus believe about the Bible?
 - f. Talk about the huge implications this has on how Christians should read and interpret Scripture.

BRINGING IT HOME | APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Personal Reflection

1. What does your neighbor or coworker believe about the Bible? What would it look like to point them toward Jesus as God's ultimate "Word" (Hebrews 1:1-3).

Group Application

1. Share tips and tools that have helped you "understand the meaning" of Scripture. Encourage one another to keep digging into the Bible.

DIGGING DEEPER | IDEAS TO KEEP GROWING DURING THE WEEK

1. Have you ever wished you get better at handling Scripture? [Biblical Training](https://biblicaltraining.org/classes) offers dozens of free online classes from some of the best Bible teachers in the country (biblicaltraining.org/classes).
2. This week, slowly read the prayer of Nehemiah 9:5-37. How is Israel's story similar to the story we continue to live in today? Invite Jesus to fulfill our deepest longings by praying "your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven."