

## Restore Nehemiah 8 - People of the Word

## Opening the next section of the book:

- 1. Would the people live at peace, in shalom, with one another?
- 2. How would the people reformulate their shared identity?
- 3. How would they seek to avoid a calamity like this happening again?

# What do we learn from the Israelites?

- 1. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ the Word.
- 2. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ the Word.
- 3. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ the Word.

## **Read the Word:**

#### Nehemiah 8:1

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.

#### The Challenge to us:

- 1. Is reading the Bible a chore or joy?
- 2. Is it the last we do at night or a top priority in our lives?

#### Hear the Word:

#### Nehemiah 6:5-7

The 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. They 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.

#### Two things we see:

- 1. The people had skilled teachers helping them \_\_\_\_\_\_ what was being said.
- 2. They also had \_\_\_\_\_\_ that were ready to hear what was being said.

### Something worth remembering:

Everything you say "yes" to, means saying "no" to something else. Or...Saying "no" to something, means saying "yes" to what really matters.

# **Application:**

- 1. Read your Bible.
- 2. Go to church.

But also: Respond to the Word.

# 2 Forms of Response:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

## Nehemiah 8:9

Then 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.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## Nehemiah 8:10-12

Nehemiah 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."

The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve."

Then 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.