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Discussion Questions

INTRODUCTION

Nehemiah is the story of the Israelites returning from Babylonian exile. They were exiled for the lack of faith in God and worship of God. Upon returning they built the Temple, rebuilt the wall that protects Jerusalem, and rebuilt their own homes and were now settling in to live their lives again in the place God had blessed them with. In chapter 8 we see God's people now in God's place discover again God's Words. We can learn from them that God's Words and God's presence requires a response and inspire joy and hope.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

Nehemiah 8 Seek Understanding

1. What are some things in your life that you have been passionate about? How does that compare to the passion to know the Word? Should you repent? Discuss how passionate God is about you knowing the Word?
2. Discuss some of the ways God has given you understanding and praise Him for it!

Nehemiah 8 Ready yourself to hear the Word of God

1. What are some ways that have been the most effective for you as you ready yourself to hear from the Word of God?
2. What steps can you take to prepare to hear from God?

Nehemiah 8:1-9 Respond to the Word of God

1. How is your response to God's Word most like the Israelites and how is your response the most different? What do you need to believe in order to respond in such a way that reflects the truths revealed in God's Word?
2. How does God's desire to effect your emotions inspire you to praise Him? What would your life be like without the Gospel ever affecting your emotions?
3. What has God been revealing to you lately to obey or submit to His command? What is keeping from obeying? How did Jesus obey in this way perfectly? How does that affect me?

Nehemiah 8 Our mourning shall turn to dancing

1. In what ways is it easy for you to forget that you are a sojourner? How does that affect your life and the people around you?
2. Discuss why we should be excited that God desires to dwell with us.
3. Read these passages and discuss what stands out to you and why? Psalm 30:11; Isaiah 61:1-3; Jeremiah 31:13