



# Summer Study Discussion Guide #3

**Sermon Title:** The Moving of Almighty God

**Biblical Reference:** Nehemiah 8:1-12

**Date Preached:** Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 11am

**Summer Study Date:** Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Sermon Summary

In this passage the 42,360 Israelites who came back to Jerusalem and have rebuilt the temple, and just finished rebuilding the walls of the city assemble to start one of the greatest spiritual revivals of the Old Testament.

In the following chapters God moves in tremendous ways in His people that He has not done in a century, such as keeping of the ceremonial feasts and a re-covenanting of the people to their God. How they approach God and come to Him marks the same principles that God is looking for today to move through His people.

## Quick Review

God is looking to move through His people, but He is waiting for His people to look to Him for His moving.

## My Story

1. Optional Ice Breaker- Let's go around the group and share a time where you were stressed about a big move, but it turned out be better than you expected?
2. In what area do you need to see the biggest move of God right now in your personal walk, in your family, or within your sphere of influence?

## Digging Deeper

### 1. God Centered-Unity

*Ask a volunteer to read: Nehemiah 8:1-3*

*Nehemiah 8:1* And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel.

2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

3 And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

**Discussion Questions:**

- In Nehemiah 8:1-3 how did the people of God show unity? What stands out to you and why do you think this was important?
- How can we have greater unity as the people of God, and how can we learn from their example?
- Can you name a time when you became unified with others for the same cause? How does this relate to us as a church or study group in our cause for Christ? Why do you think this is sometimes too difficult to accomplish?

## 2. Spiritual Hunger

*Ask a volunteer to read: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6*

*Nehemiah 8:1* And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel.

2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

3 And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up:

6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

**Discussion Questions:**

- How in Nehemiah 8:1-3, and 5-6 did the people show that they were hungry for spiritual things? What stands out to you, and why do you think this was important?
- How can we, as the people of God, create a greater hunger and thirst for spiritual things in our life? How can we follow their example in this passage?
- Why do we often lose our spiritual hunger for the things of God, and how do we overcome this or what helps you in this area?

### 3. Radical Obedience

***Ask a volunteer to read: Nehemiah 8:9-12***

*9 And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.*

*10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength.*

*11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved.*

*12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- In Nehemiah 8:9-12 how would you describe the obedience of the people to the Biblical instruction? What stands out to you, and why do you think this was important?
- Why do we sometimes not obey God, or we do not obey quickly?
- Can you think of a time it was difficult to obey God? What helped you, and how did God bless?

## Taking It Home

**God is looking to move through His people, but He is waiting for His people look to Him for His moving.**

1. What in the above principles speaks to you the most on what you want God to move on or change?
2. How can you put this into practice to allow for God's moving?

***Additional Questions (if times allows):***

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they can do because of hearing the message:

1. What point in this message was most impactful for you?
2. How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
3. How will you put into practice what you've learned today?