

**Home Group Notes**  
**Week of May 26, 2024**  
**Nehemiah 7-8**



**TURN! TURN! TURN!**

in 1965, “The Byrds” popularized a song named, “Turn! Turn! Turn!” The lyrics are borrowed from Ecclesiastes three and includes, “There is a season . . . A time to dance, a time to mourn.” Have there been times when you went from dancing to mourning or mourning to dancing?

**LEARN FROM GOD’S WORD**

Up to this point, the focus has been on the reconstruction of the wall surrounding Jerusalem for the purpose of protection and community. Few people were living in the city because of danger. The wall was completed in the previous chapter (six) and the leaders are working to rebuild the community of people following the one true God.

Read through chapters seven and eight and consider the following questions designed to help focus on the words that God preserved.

Chapter seven reviews the efforts of Nehemiah to restore the city. What do you notice about his initial efforts in 7:1-5?

Why do you think he listed the people “who came up out of the captivity?”

At the conclusion of his long list, Nehemiah repeatedly said that the people “lived in their towns.” How is that significant to his goals?

What stands out to you about the gathering of people and their responses in 8:1-8?

Three times Nehemiah and others (8:9-12) reminded the people that this “day is holy” and then commanded them to not “mourn.” Why do you think they were mourning?

How does Zephaniah 3:14-17 address their situation? How did their response change? Why?

Chapter eight concludes with the people following “the words of the Law” (8:13) by celebrating the feast of booths. This feast focused on the protection and provision of God. How does their obedience connect with the big picture of Nehemiah?

### **APPLICATION**

It seems odd to be commanded to rejoice instead of mourning. Many times, the Psalmists command us to rejoice or praise the Lord. Why might that be? What purposes might God have for these calls to rejoice? Is it sometimes true in your life that you could be praising God instead of mourning or complaining or \_\_\_\_? Read Psalm 32:11; 68:3; and 118:24 and ask the Lord to help you live out our call to rejoice in the Lord.

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

What did you think and feel when you saw how the people responded to the reading of God’s Word?

Are there times when we are mourning when we should be rejoicing? Why do we do this? What do we learn in the Psalms about how we should be responding to life and to God?

What do you feel when you are with the church family?

### **PLEASE PRAY**

- For our global partners that are serving God throughout the world
- For our Kids, Middle and High Schoolers deciding to go to camps and our financial help for families
- For our partners at “Inherit the Earth,” and their ministry in downtown Redlands