

## **Dig Deeper @Home – “Kingdom Restoration”**

### **Complement to lesson on 3/26/23 – “Triumph of God’s Grace”**

#### **ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered**

1. What’s your favorite celebration?
2. Share a time you experienced God’s grace in your own life.

#### **MEMORIZE – Nehemiah 1:9**

“but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.”

#### **READ – Read Nehemiah 8**

##### **Questions to ponder/discuss:**

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
  - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
  - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
  - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?  
In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. What does Nehemiah 8 have to say about joy?
  - a. Is this consistent with what you think about joy?
  - b. What does the world say leads to joy?
  - c. How does Nehemiah 8 impact your understanding of joy?
3. Nehemiah 8 comes before Nehemiah 9. What are the people doing in Nehemiah 8? What are they doing in Nehemiah 9? What’s the connection for us?

## **EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Celebrating Grace**

Read again Nehemiah 8: 9-10. In response to hearing God’s word and the teaching, Nehemiah and Ezra tell the people to celebrate God. So, let’s do the same thing! Throw a party! Invite friends. Have a feast! What are we celebrating? God’s grace in Christ Jesus and the joy we get as we follow Him! As you gather, recount the ways God has worked in your lives (similar to the recounting of God’s wonderful works in Nehemiah chapter 9). Tell stories. Worship the Lord in song! Play games and laugh. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

**SING** (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Joy of the Lord - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcG9HApTC\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcG9HApTC_Q)

A Thousand Hallelujahs - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeS49pSXDts>

His Mercy is More - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1GiZL60c80>

Joyful Joyful we Adore Thee - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yZVweZ2Cvg>

## **PRAY**

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

### **Sending prayer based on the series:**

As you go this week, may you overflow with joy as you faithfully obey and follow Christ where you live, work, study and play.