

# **LESSON 8 - THE SHINING LIGHT**

## **NEHEMIAH 8**

### **DAY 1 - REVIEW**

1. Write down something you read from the commentary notes that will help you be a better Christian.
2. Write down something you heard from the lecture that will help you be a better Christian.
3. Which verse from last week's lesson was meaningful to you and why?

### **DAY 2 - READ NEHEMIAH 8:1-4**

*READING: Nehemiah 8:1-4; Deuteronomy 31:24-26; Joshua 1:8* [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

4. From verse 1, who were assembled, where did they assemble and for what reason?
5. The Book of the Law, referenced in verse 1, is most likely the first 5 books of the Old Testament, also known as the Pentateuch. How long did the people listen as the Book of the Law was read?
6. Using the following cross references, give reasons why you think the Book of the Law was so important to Israel.  
Deuteronomy 31:24-26  
  
Joshua 1:8
7. **Personal Question:** The Book of the Law was God's inspired and recorded Word to His people. How important is the Word of God to you? Give some evidence in your life for your answer.

### **DAY 3 - READ NEHEMIAH 8:5-12**

*READING: Nehemiah 8:5-12* [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

8. Determine the significance of each of these three outward responses to the Word of God being read:

- a. "the people all stood up"-
  - b. "the people lifted their hands"-
  - c. "they bowed down and worshiped the Lord"-
9. Without the aid of a dictionary or commentary write in your own words the definition of worship.
10. **Thought Question:** What do you think is implied by verse 8, "They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read"?
11. **Thought Question:** Why do you think the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law?
12. How did Nehemiah respond to the people's weeping and grieving?

## **DAY 4 - READ NEHEMIAH 8:10**

READING: Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 16:11; Psalm 30:5; Isaiah 12:2-3; Jeremiah 15:16; John 15:11 [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

Note: Today's lesson will focus on Nehemiah's command to Israel recorded in verse 10, "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!"

13. What does the phrase, "the joy of the Lord is your strength" mean?
14. What is the source of joy in each of the following cross references? (some translations may use "rejoicing" instead of "joy" with the same meaning)
- Psalm 16:11
- Psalm 30:5
- Isaiah 12:2 & 3

Jeremiah 15:16

John 15:11

15. **Thought Question:** Do you think there is a difference between experiencing joy and feeling happy? Explain your answer.

16. **Personal Question:** Would you say that you have experienced the "joy of the Lord"? Describe it.

## **DAY 5 - READ NEHEMIAH 8:13-18**

READING: Nehemiah 8:13-18; 2 Chronicles 8:13; Ezra 3:4; John 7:2 [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

17. On the 2nd day of the month, what did the people discover that was written in the Law?

18. How did the people respond to the Lord's command?

19. **Personal Question:** How do you respond when you receive a clear command from God's Word?

20. What was the main activity of their weeklong Feast of Booths, also known as the Feast of Tabernacles?  
(Note: People of Israel lived in booths for a week to commemorate their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, referenced in 2 Chronicles 8:13, Ezra 3:4, John 7:2)

21. What is your main take away from God requiring His people to celebrate this annual Feast of Booths?

## **DAY 6 - RE-READ NEHEMIAH 8**

READING: Nehemiah 8 [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

22. **Personal Question:** Because of the emphasis on reading/applying God's Word in this lesson, what are you compelled to do in your own life?

23. **Thought Question:** Do you think there is any application today for the celebration of annual festivals, or do you think annual festivals no longer apply to New Testament believers? Explain your answer.
24. According to verse 17b, the Israelites had not celebrated like this since the days of Joshua. What do you think kept them from celebrating for nearly 1,000 years?
25. **Personal Question:** What is thwarting your wholehearted worship and celebration of God?