



REJOICE IN GOD'S RENEWAL - April 22

Nehemiah 8:9–12 (ESV) 9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. 10 Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” 11 So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.” 12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

Kingdom Prayer

Your group is invited to use the sermon passages and the broader themes of the Stories of Revival sermon series to commune corporately with our God. Here are some suggested approaches to help you do that but feel the freedom to engage the Lord as seems good to you.

Longing for Revival – Psalm 85 invited us to yearn for God’s reviving work. Continue the conversations with God you began two weeks ago. Consider asking and listening for answers in prayer to these questions:

- Tell God what you yearn for him to do in and through you and our community, in your neighborhood, and throughout our city.
- Spend time considering the areas of spiritual need you and we have as a community. Confess that neediness to God and our inability to produce the revival we desire without him.

Rediscovering God’s Word – Last week the opening of Nehemiah 8 revealed the powerful and reorienting impact God’s word can have on people when they are postured to receive it.

- Consider and confess ways we believe God exists to participate in our story and not the other way around. Ask him to graciously reorient us to our true and joy-filled nature as *his* people.
- Confess areas of your life individually and collectively that you/we have been unwilling to submit to God’s gracious reign, but instead have remained hardened toward his word & will.

Rehearsing Revival – This past Sunday we saw the people of God rehearsing revival in their engagement with the Sabbath to prepare their hearts and soul for deep refreshment and joy.

- Ask God to grant you and our community deep Sabbath rest in our hearts and souls.
- Ask God, by his presence and power, to produce extraordinary fruit through our ordinary activities of reading and meditating on his word, praying (even right now!), serving, and sharing the gospel with our neighbors.
- Is there something you need to do personally in response to God’s word? Share it with someone and ask for prayer to help do it.