

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of April 12, 2015

This Week's Focus: The reforming of God's people through God's Word.

This Week's Text: Nehemiah 8

*"It is not a story of moral exemplars. It is a record of God's intervening grace into the lives of those who do not deserve it, are not seeking it, who continually resist it, and who even do not appreciate it, even after they have been saved by it." **Tim Keller***

*"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." **2***

Timothy 3:16-17

Related Texts: John 5:38-39; 2 Timothy 4:2-4; Romans 3:20; Jeremiah 15:16; Psalm 19:8; Luke 10:1-12, 17-20; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; James 1:22-25

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What in the text/sermon was most illuminating or helpful? Why?
- Describe what is taking place in the lives of God's people in Nehemiah 8.
- What is significant about the fact that the people "gathered as one man" to hear the Scriptures read?
- In the first verse, Ezra re-enters the narrative. What do we know about Ezra?
- The events of chapter 8 begin on the "first day of the 7th month." What is important about this time in the Jewish calendar? Discuss how God is a God of fresh starts to those that turn to Him.
- What can we learn about the people based on their posture during the reading of the law and during corporate worship?

- Verse 8 says that Ezra and the other leaders read the scriptures clearly and "gave the sense" to the gathered Israelites. Explain what this means, and why it is important to be people of the Book.
- Thirteen men worked alongside Ezra to instruct the people of Israel. Why is it important to have a plurality of godly leadership? What can happen without it?
- Why did the people weep at the reading of the law? What is your response to hearing God speak to you in His Word?
- As Christians, what should be our source of eternal joy? Reference Luke 10:20.
- Discuss the following statement. "True, lasting obedience to the will of God produces joy only if it is dependent on Jesus' work of redemption accomplished on my behalf."
- What is the Festival of Booths/Tabernacles? What did it remind the people of?
- According to verse 16, the people read and immediately obeyed God's Word. Do you promptly obey when God speaks to you through His Word?
- How does Nehemiah 8 testify of Jesus?

Next Week's Text: Nehemiah 9