



October 17th Discussion Guide

Celebrate God: Nehemiah 12:27-43

This is a 6 week study from the Book of Nehemiah. Content for this discussion guide is based on the sermon, so participation in weekly worship will enhance the conversation on this topic. If you want to watch the sermon it can be viewed at [Sermons Archive - Good Shepherd Church Naperville](#)

Prayer

Open your group in prayer.

Icebreaker (10 min)

Share any “comeback” story you know, where someone faced impossible adversity and yet somehow overcame the odds.

Glance ahead to Nehemiah 12:36 (NIV). Musical instruments “prescribed by David”. What kind of music do you listen to when you need “healing”?

Discussion (45 min)

1. Read Nehemiah 12:27-30.
 - a. What did the priests and Levites do during the celebration?
 - b. Read 1 Peter 3:5 and 1 John 1:9. Discuss the connection between this celebration/purification to the foreshadowing of what was to come.
2. Read Nehemiah 12:31-39.
 - a. Why do you think Nehemiah and Ezra took the people all around the walls and temple?
 - b. What do you do to reflect back on your progress and how God has worked in your life?
3. Read Nehemiah 12:40-43 and 1 Chronicles 16:8-9.
 - a. After being purified and reflecting on all God had done, what did the people do next?
 - b. Do you remember to praise God after making a comeback from tough times? Do you share your story with others so they can also know about God's amazing work? Share a memory of this with your group.
4. This series of Nehemiah included all the items necessary for a "comeback": courageous faith, collaborative effort, compelling focus, covenant renewal, and continual reform. Which of these impacted you the most?

Application question: What did you learn about God from the study of Nehemiah and how can you apply it to your circumstances this week?

LORD, you are victorious! You show up, guide us, and turn things around for our good and Your Glory! Remind us this week how You have been present and working in our tough situations. Give us courage and strength to not backslide, but stay obedient to Your Word and Covenant. We praise You in advance for finishing what you started in us!

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:4

