

CURRENT SERIES

REVIVE

...A SECOND WIND

Small Group Participant Guide

Nehemiah 7:1-8:18 | A Spiritual Second Wind

Key Verse: 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." . (Nehemiah 8:9-10, ESV)

Objectives: Through your time exploring this passage, you will:

Discuss the steps Nehemiah implemented to preserve the peace and lead Jerusalem into their "second wind."

Discuss the opportunities God has given you for your next season of life.

Apply the biblical principles discovered into your life for getting your second wind.

Conversation Starter: What "refuels" you?

When you are undertaking a big project, or something challenges you to persevere, what "refuels" you? What do you do when you find yourself running out of steam (emotional, mental, physical, spiritual), and how do you "charge back up?"

Organizing for the Second Wind (Nehemiah 7:1-3)

The work of building the wall has been extensive, under continual opposition from both internal and external forces, and required great sacrifice by everyone involved. Now that the wall is finished, it would be tempting to stop and take a rest. What evidence do you see here that Nehemiah didn't do this?

Let's look more closely at the actions implemented by Nehemiah. What "strategy" do you see in who Nehemiah appointed and placed, and what purposes are accomplished in his strategy?

Where in your own life do you see organization as a preparatory step toward living in faith?

Accounting the Opportunity (Nehemiah 7:4-73)

While this extended passage includes many names and numbers, let's focus on verses 4-6. What stands out to you in this passage?

Read verses 66-73. Why can it be valuable to take inventory of your resources at appropriate times?

Take a moment and consider the plans that God has put on your heart, or on the heart of your small group. What is He leading you to accomplish? What resources has he provided for you to accomplish this?

Second Wind (Nehemiah 8:1-12)

In reading chapter 8, the phrase "the people" is repeated 13 times. God has brought them from their surrounding communities to be gathered in the square. What do you think is significant about this?

What do you see the role of Ezra to be here? What all do you see in terms of his part in the community of Israel, and the people's interaction with him and his contributions?

Verses 6-8 indicate important elements of the community's spiritual activity. What stands out to you?

Verses 9-12 give a culminating context to the gathering. How do you see chapters 7 and 8 fitting together under the context given in these verses?

Why do you suppose the exhortation is given for them, "do not grieve," and to go enjoy the experiences of the day?

Celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles (Nehemiah 8:13-18)

While many people returned to their homes, the heads of the families and the spiritual leaders stayed to receive further instruction from Ezra. What is significant about this to you?

They "found written in the Law" the commands to commemorate the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths, as the ESV translates), recorded in [Leviticus 23:33-43](#). This feast was to be celebrated with joy, in the place that God would show them (cf. [Deut. 16:15](#)). Why do you think it was significant to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in the context of their recently being gathered for the first time within the rebuilt walls of Jerusalem?

Jesus in Focus

Where in this chapter do you see Jesus: Christ-like practices, examples, principles?

What are some other Scriptures that come to mind or are relevant to this chapter's themes, teachings, or emphases?

What is one "take-away" for you from this chapter?